12
SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS
原作
蔵石ユウ
漫画
西木田景志
KURAISHI YU×
NISHIKIDA KEISHI
我妻さんは俺のヨメ
MY WIFE IS MY GATSUMA-SAN

FACULTY OFFICE
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
THE BATTLE BEGINS IN THE FACULTY OFFICE!!
HUH?
WHAT...
DID YOU JUST SAY?

WITH ALL MY MIGHT AND EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING!!
I, HITOSHI AOSHIMA, AM GOING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES AS ZAISHO VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
HE APPEARS! THE BEAUTIFUL AOSHIMA!!
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
STORY: YUU KURAISHI / COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

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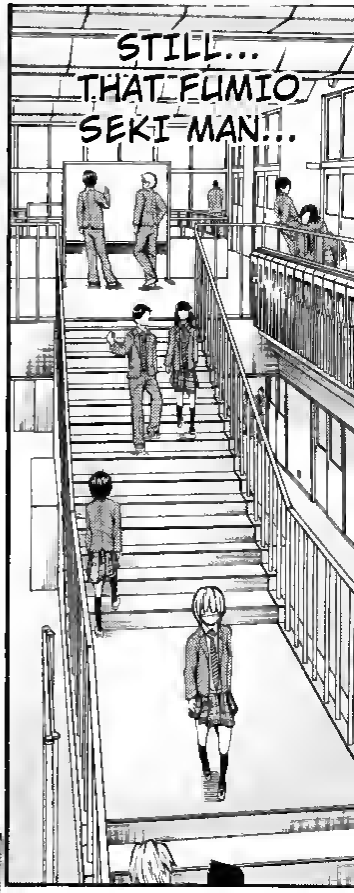
NOOO! IT'S ALREADY BECOME PART OF MY DARK HISTORY!
WHAT ABOUT IT?
I AM GOING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES WITH ALL MY MIGHT AND EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING.
WHAT IN THE HECK WAS THIS:
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT BACK THERE?!
DUDE, WHAT THE HECK?! WHAT WAS THAT?!
GRAB
WELL... WELL...
YOU AREN'T THE KINDA KID WHO SAYS THAT SORTA THING, ARE YOU?! OPEN YOUR EYES!!
"YOU'RE GOING TO RUN FROM THE CAPTAIN POSITION THEN, AOSHIMA-KUN?"
RIGHT IN FRONT OF WAGATSUMA-SAN!
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?
WAGATSUMA-SAN WAS STANDING RIGHT BEHIND HIM...
THAT JERK SAID...
LISTEN, NUMBSKULL!!

N-NO... THERE'S NO WAY I CAN HANDLE...
SUCH A LARGE RESPON-SIBILITY!
I MEAN, THERE'S NO WAY I COULD SAY SOME-THING LIKE THAT WITH HER THERE, RIGHT?!
FACULTY OFFICE
HUH?
OH... REALLY.
THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE CAP-TAIN?
DON'T LOOK AT ME...
知らねえよ……
WELL, YEAH...
OF COURSE.

A...
AO-SHIMA-KUN.
HMM?
WELL, YEAH. I GUESS.
YOU'RE THE CAPTAIN OF THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM?
WOW...
THAT'S...
AMAZ-ING.

A...AO-SHIMA?
THUNK
バタン
BEAM
EEK! OH MAN!
I SAID IT!!!!
HOW SHOULD I KNOW, YOU PIECE OF CRAP?!
WHAT... DO YOU THINK I SHOULD DO?
...
NOW I KNOW WHAT I SAID, BUT...
NOOOOO! I ALREADY SAID I'D DO IT IN FRONT OF WAGA-TSUMA-SAN!!
GET YOUR BUTT BACK THERE AND TAKE IT BACK THIS INSTANT!!

OR OUR ENEMY?
3 – A
WILL HE BECOME OUR ALLY...
WE BEGAN OUR RECONNAIS-SANCE OF HIM.
HUH? SEKI-SENSEI?
TESTIMONY ①
3-A YASUSHI ONO


STILL... THAT FUMIO SEKI MAN...

WHAT'S THAT SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
IT'S IN YOUR BEST INTER-EST TO TELL US EVERY-THING!
WE WANT YOU TO TELL US EVERY-THING YOU KNOW WITH-OUT HIDING ANYTHING.
HE'S THE HOMEROOM TEACHER OF YOUR CLASS, RIGHT?

HIS STYLE OF TEACHING IS VERY THOROUGH AND EASY TO UNDERSTAND.
WELL, I LIKE HIM PRETTY WELL, I GUESS.
"SEKI-CHAN"?!!!!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS SNOOPING AROUND SEKI-CHAN FOR?!
YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SEKI-SENSEI?
SEKI-CHAN, HE... HE...!
TESTIMONY ②
3-A KOUJI NAKAMOTO
WELL, I'M USED TO THAT BY NOW...
IT LOOKS LIKE MAT-2'S GONNA BE MY ONLY FRIEND IN THIS CLASS...
WHEN I WAS UNABLE TO OPEN MY HEART TO THE CLASS...

WHAT'S THE MATTER, NAKA-MOTO?
IT'S NO-THING, REALLY...
OH...
WELL...
DOES HE ALREADY HAVE ALL HIS STU-DENTS' NAMES AND FACES MEMOR-IZED?
THIS GUY...
HEH HEH.
DO YOU MIND?
THEN... I'VE GOT A LITTLE FAVOR TO ASK...
I HAVE JUST TRANS-FERRED HERE, SO I'M VERY LONELY.
WHAT THE?
...NO...

KOUJI?
WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?
*REAL NAME: KOUJI NAKAMOTO
IN FACT... THIS GUY'S SURPRISINGLY WEAK TO PASSION, HUH?
TO THINK HE WON OVER A MAN AS LEVEL-HEADED AS ELECTRIC MEDUSA...
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN...?
SINCE THAT DAY, ME AND SEKI-CHAN HAVE BEEN FRIENDS, YOU JERKS!
YEAH.
I GUESS THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR OUR RECON, HUH?

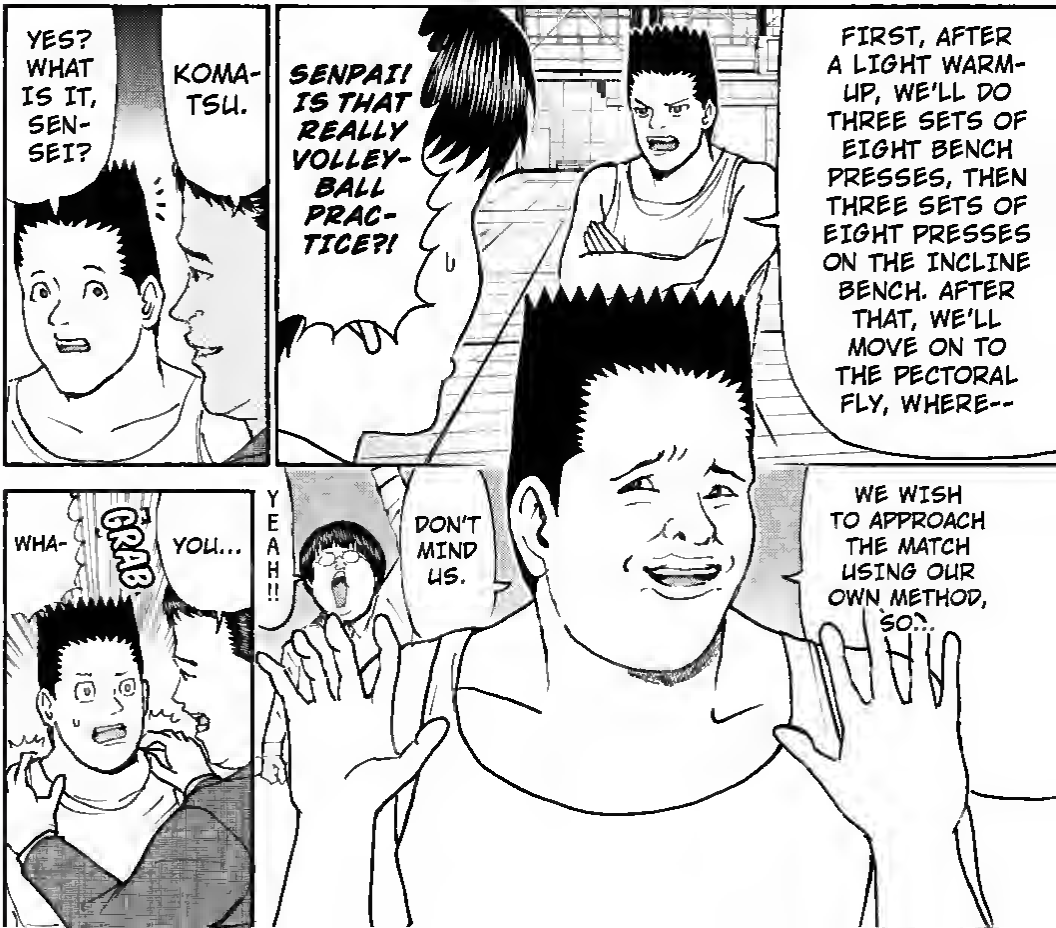
TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS!
CLAP CLAP
YAY.
HOW ABOUT A ROUND OF APPLAUSE?
NOW... ABOUT INSTRUCTOR FUMIO SEKI'S REPUTATION...
HERE ARE THE RESULTS!
BADA-BOOM!
OHHH!!
DON'T KNOW
LIKE
OHHH... THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD REPUTATION...
NO LOW OPINIONS, HUH?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE GIRLS HAVE A HIGH OPINION OF HIM FOR REASONS LIKE "HE'LL BE FRIENDLY WITH YOU" AND "HE'S EASY TO BE FRIENDS WITH."
OH HO HO.
WHICH MEANS ONLY ONE THING, AM I RIGHT?
YES.

YES...THE PART WHERE HE'S POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS TOO REALLY GETS ON MY NERVES!
WE, THE DX CORPS, CANNOT GO ALONG WITH SUCH A STEREO-TYPICAL TV SCHOOL DRAMA TEACHER!
ALL RIGHT, GATHER 'ROUND, EVERY-ONE.

I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL OF YOU.
YES.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU, SIR!
EYES UP HERE, EVERYONE!
CLAP
CLAP
NOW, LET'S TRY TO KEEP INJURIES TO A MINIMUM AGAIN TODAY AS WE PRACTICE FOR THE INTER-HIGH--
ALREADY BEING TREATED LIKE OLD MEMBERS
WHAT ARE THEY HERE FOR?
UGH.. THEY REALLY CAME.
CAPTAIN AOSHIMA AND THE THIRD-YEARS HAVE ARRIVED!
CAPTAIN
WHAT'S ON THE PRACTICE MENU TODAY?
HUH? OH...

OH, THAT'S NO GOOD. NO GOOD AT ALL. THAT'LL GET US NOWHERE.
FIRST, WE'RE GOING TO DO SOME RUNNING, THEN SOME CALISTHENICS, PASS PRACTICE...SPIKE PRACTICE...
OH HO HO.
WHO DID IT? WHO PUT TOGETHER THIS HACKNEYED MENU?
HMM?
"WHO"?
THE TOP? YOU MEAN THE DISTRICT PRELIMS?
AND IF WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE, WE NEED TO PRACTICE LIKE WE'RE AIMING FOR THE TOP.
WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME LEFT UNTIL THE MATCH.
BUT I THINK YOU NEED TO TAKE A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO THEM.
WELL, I'LL ADMIT THAT THE FUNDAMENTALS ARE IMPORTANT...
...
HUH?

WHO THE HECK IS THAT ?!!!
WHEN SOMEONE SAYS "THE TOP" THEY CLEARLY MEAN PHIL HEATH, WHO DOMINATED THE MR. OLYMPIA COMPETITION THREE YEARS RUNNING, RIGHT?


YES? WHAT IS IT, SENSEI?
KOMATSU.
SENPAI! IS THAT REALLY VOLLEYBALL PRACTICE?!
FIRST, AFTER A LIGHT WARM-UP, WE'LL DO THREE SETS OF EIGHT BENCH PRESSES, THEN THREE SETS OF EIGHT PRESSES ON THE INCLINE BENCH. AFTER THAT, WE'LL MOVE ON TO THE PECTORAL FLY, WHERE--
WHA-
GRAB
YOU...
YEAH!!
DON'T MIND US.
WE WISH TO APPROACH THE MATCH USING OUR OWN METHOD, SO...

...IS THIS GUY SERIOUS?
WOW～
HAVE A NICE BODY HERE.
IS SO NICE ABOUT IT?
WHAT, SPECIFICALLY...
AND IT TAKES A LOT OF HARD WORK TO THICKEN THE LEGS, BUT YOU'VE PUT ON A LOT OF MUSCLE... EXCELLENT WORK.
AND IT'S ALMOST LIKE YOU'VE GOT CANNON BALLS IN YOUR SHOULDERS.
WELL, EVEN YOUR LATS, WHICH ARE HARD TO TONE IN THE FIRST PLACE, ARE SPREAD OUT LIKE WINGS...
AHHHHH!! HE WON OVER KOMATSU LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!!
LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT TO SAY.
AOSHIMA, SEKI-CHAN IS A MAN WHO GETS IT.

HE'S WINNING OVER EVERY-ONE...
DANG IT...
CAP-TAIN AO-SHI-MA...
...YES?
YOU...
WHAT IS IT, SIR?
WH-

...ARE REALLY BAD AT VOLLEY-BALL, AREN'T YOU?
ガーン
SHOCK

I THINK YOU SHOULD QUIT.
YOU AREN'T CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN.

YOU DEF-INITELY AREN'T CUT OUT TO BE CAPTAIN.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND ONE BIT WHY SOME-ONE LIKE YOU WAS CHOSEN AS CAPTAIN.
*THE SECOND-YEARS WHO SELECTED AOSHIMA TO BE CAPTAIN JUST BECAUSE HE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN'S EX
I DON'T WANT TO QUIT!
HUH? I...
LIS-TEN, SON.
YOU DON'T WANT TO?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT OTHER CHOICE WE HAVE WHEN YOU'RE THIS BAD AT VOLLEY-BALL...
I KNOW YOU MAY NOT WANT TO QUIT, BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO QUIT!
N...NO WAY...
NO WAY!
I GUESS IT MIGHT BE OKAY IF YOU CAN SUPPORT THE TEAM IN OTHER WAYS...
WELL...
THEN, LET'S DO THIS.
AND IF YOU CAN'T, THEN I'M MAKING KOMATSU THE CAPTAIN.
IF YOU CAN RECRUIT 12 NEW TEAM MEMBERS, YOU CAN BE THE CAPTAIN, AOSHIMA.
IS THIS...
HUH?
A TEST?!
OOO
TO BE CONTINUED!

THE HORROR! FOR SOME REASON, SEKIBUN OBSTI-NATELY TESTS AOSHIMA!!
HUH?
12?
FIND US 12 NEW MEMBERS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
ISN'T IT ONLY NATURAL?
WHY SO MANY?!

IF YOU CAN'T HELP OUT ON THE VOLLEY-BALL COURT, THEN YOU HAVE TO HELP OUT WITH THE MANAGE-MENT.
THE CAP-TAIN IS A LEADER WHO PULLS THE TEAM TOGETHER.
WHAT'S WRONG?
HMM?
T... TWELVE...
SO THIS YEAR, I WANT TWICE THAT.
YOU HAD SIX FRESH-MEN LAST YEAR.
YOU CAN'T DO IT?
YOU CAN'T?
ARE YOU GOING TO QUIT BEING CAP-TAIN?
THEN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

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TING TINGA, TING TINGA.
TING TINGA LING.
PART 80
Feel Good Inc.
I WAS GON-NA~
BUT HE TOLD ME~
DO MY BEST AS VOLLEY-BALL TEAM CAPTAIN~
TO QUIT IF I CAN'T GET 12 NEW MEMBERS~

GOSH!!
DARN IT!!
WHY'D YOU GO WITH DAYUU KOUME* IN THIS DAY AND AGE?
WOW, THAT TAKES ME BACK.
WELL, IT'S SO FRUS-TRAT-ING!!
*COMEDIAN

NO, THAT'S NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
SCRUBBA
SCRUBBA
SCRUBBA
12 IS A PRETTY IMPOSSIBLE NUMBER.
IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN GIVE UP THE CAPTAIN SPOT TO ME.
WAIT, WHY ARE WE DOING THE GRUNT WORK?!!!
WE'RE STILL BEING TREATED LIKE THIS WHEN WE'RE SENIORS?!
-:BMPH:-
ビリリリリ
SPLAP
JUNIORS - 6 (PLAYERS)
SENIORS - 3 (BENCH)
WHAT ELSE ARE WE GONNA DO?!
THE JUNIORS ARE THE PLAYERS! US SENIORS ARE ALL BENCH-WARMERS!!

GRAB
ガッ
IF WE HAD JUST GONE TO PRACTICE LIKE WE SHOULD HAVE INSTEAD OF BECOMING PHANTOM MEMBERS, WE MIGHT HAVE MADE THE CUT...
NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR YOU TALKING SENSE!!
YOU'RE GONNA LECTURE US THE SECOND YOU BECOME CAPTAIN ?!!!
AHHH!! JEEZ!! I WANNA THROW MY WEIGHT AROUND LIKE I OWN THE PLACE!!
I WANNA RUN A SWEATSHOP!!
UGH... CURSE YOU, KING OF SCUM.
I DIDN'T THINK HE'D BE THIS BAD...
AM I JUST GONNA HAVE TO RECRUIT A LOT OF NEW MEMBERS?
IT'D REALLY SAVE MY BACON IF YOU DID THAT TOO.
HEY, ITOU.
HOW CAN WE GET MORE MEMBERS?

HMM...
WELL, THE CLUBS THAT GET THE MOST NEW MEMBERS...
TEND TO BE EITHER ① POPULAR SPORTS TEAMS, ② CLUBS WITH A LONG TRADITION, OR ③ CLUBS WITH A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA.
IF A PUNY, UNPOPULAR CLUB LIKE OURS...
WANTS TO SECURE NEW MEMBERS...
THEIR ONLY CHANCE IS THE CLUB ORIENTATION.
OH...
THAT, EH?
YEP, THAT'S THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT.
WELL, GOOD LUCK, AOSHIMA.
HUH?

YOU ARE TECHNICALLY THE CAPTAIN.
WELL, YEAH. OF COURSE.
I'M GONNA TALK ?!!!
DON'T TELL ME...
WHAT IS THIS "CLUB ORIENTATION" THAT TROUBLES AOSHIMA?!
FOR REAL ?!!!
AN ANNUAL EVENT AT WHICH CLUBS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES AND EXPLAIN THEIR ACTIVITIES TO THE NEW STUDENTS!!
THE CLUB ORIENTATION! IN SHORT, IT IS...
IT'S THE GO-HOME CLUB FOR ME...
JUDO MIGHT BE AN OPTION TOO.
THINK I'LL JOIN THE BASKETBALL TEAM.
IT IS A VITALLY IMPORTANT EVENT WHICH DETERMINES THE POPULARITY OF A CLUB!!
MAKE FIERCE APPEALS FOR THEIR OWN CLUBS (INCLUDING NO SMALL AMOUNT OF EXAGGERATION)!!
AND ALL CLUBS, IN ORDER TO SECURE EVEN A SINGLE EXTRA MEMBER...

MAYBE BEING CAPTAIN REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME...
IS THERE EVEN ONE THING YOU *ARE* GOOD AT?
BUT I'M NO GOOD AT TALKING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE...
IF I GET FIRED AS CAPTAIN SO QUICKLY, WHAT WILL WAGATSUMA-SAN THINK OF ME?!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
MAYBE I'LL HAVE TO QUIT LIKE THAT SEKIBUN JERK SUGGESTED.
DANG IT... I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT...
IT APPEARS THIS IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH FOR YOU...
AOSHIMA...
...HUH?

CH... CH...
YOU JUST LEAVE THIS ORIENTATION TO ME: MASAO KOMATSU...
PRESENTATION MASTER!!
HA! HA! HA! HA!
WHUMP
CHIEF KOMATSU!!
HUH?
I'M GONNA DO IT MYSELF AFTER ALL.
BUT! BUT!!
THANK YOU, KOMATSU!
YOU ARE THE TRUE CAPTAIN!
-:TSK:-
WELL, EVERYONE HAS THEIR ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
I'VE GOTTA LEARN TO DO THIS STUFF!!
I CAN'T BE A CAPTAIN IN NAME ONLY!!
THE DAY OF THE CLUB ORIENTATION.

BOING
BOING
THUNK
ROLL
OHHH~
EEK! DOBASHI-KUN!
EEK! HE'S SO DREAMY!
AND THAT...
WAS JUG-GLING.
ALL RIGHT.
LIFE-HAVING SOCCER TEAM
YUUKI DOBASHI

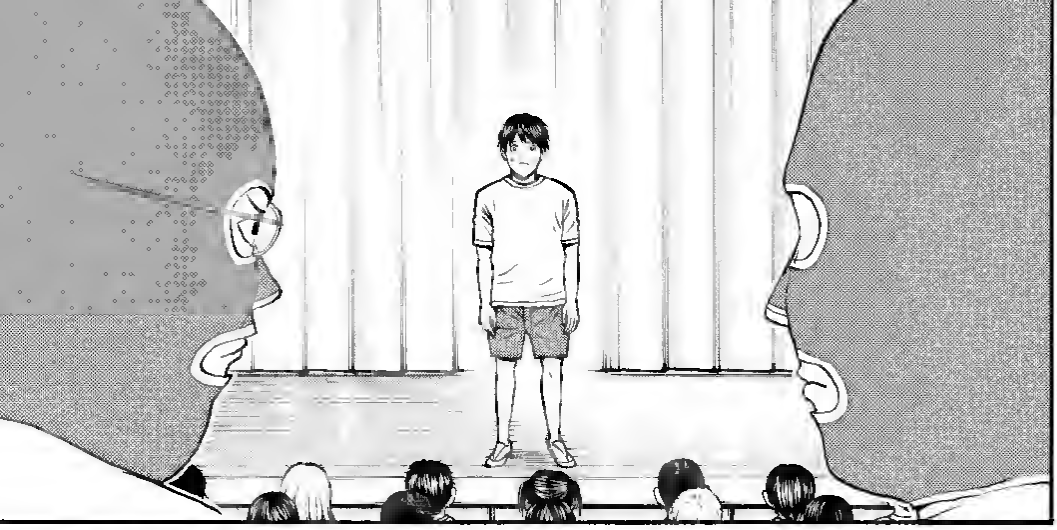
OH, AND WE'RE ALSO LOOKING FOR A CUTE MANAGER!
WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON THE SOCCER TEAM! ♡
HEY, AOSHIMA.
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE JUGGLING.
WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF CHEERING, HUH?
BECAUSE HE'S OUR LEADING MAN TODAY.
BOY, HE'S CONSPICUOUSLY NERVOUS, HUH?
KA-
CHINK
LET'S CONFIRM HOW IT'S GONNA GO DOWN ONE LAST TIME.
LISTEN UP, AOSHIMA. BEFORE YOU GO OUT THERE...

AND...
HEY, CUT IT OUT, YOU JERKS!!!!
THAT'S WHEN YOU GALLANTLY COME TO THE RESCUE!
THEN, ATTEMPT TO KIDNAP A POOR FRESHMAN GIRL.
EEK! SAVE ME!
FIRST, ME AND KOMATSU...
WILL ARRIVE, DISGUISED AS MYSTERIOUS COMBATANTS.
TA-DAH
ONCE YOU'VE FOUGHT OFF THE BAD GUYS, YOU GO INTO YOUR MIC PERFORMANCE!
YOU'LL ALL BE ABLE TO DO THIS AS WELL IF YOU SIMPLY JOIN THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM!
UNLEASH YOUR FINISHING MOVE: THE "ZAISHOU EXPLOSION ATTACK!!"
BOOOM!!!
STOP!! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!!
YOU'RE A GENIUS, HAN...
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I READ IT, I AM CHARMED BY THE PERFECTION OF THIS SCRIPT.
HMM...
THEN, WE'LL BE ROLLING IN NEW MEMBERS! ♡
WHAT THE--?
WHOOOAA
ヴォォォォ
THIS IS GONNA MAKE ALL THE FRESHMEN JOIN THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM...
ズラ～
WHUMPH

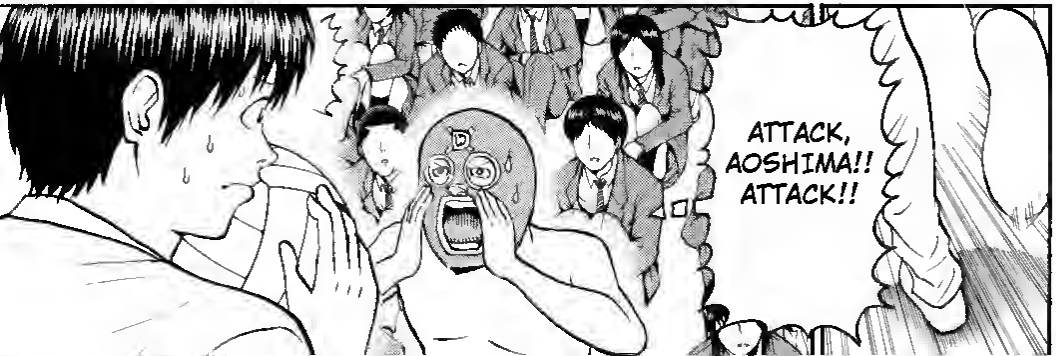
WHA ?!!!
EEK... WAIT A MINUTE!
おおおおお
*SFX: "OOOOOOH!"
NOW, NOW, NOW, NOW, NOW.
YOUKO! YOU DIDN'T SAY WE WERE GONNA GO THIS FAR!!
USA
WIM TEAM
BURN FAT AND INCREASE MUSCLE WITH SWIMMING AND YOU'LL LOOK LIKE THIS IN SIX MONTHS!!
USA
SWIMMING IS THIS MOST EFFECTIVE SPORT FOR WEIGHT LOSS!!

THAT SETTLES IT! I'M GONNA JOIN THE SWIM TEAM!!
YAY
YAY
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
PLEASE, EVERYONE, CONSIDER...
THE SWIM TEAM!!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
SO IF WE JOIN, WE CAN SEE HER EVERY DAY...
CHATTER
CHATTER
SHE MUST BE A JUNIOR OR A SENIOR ON THE SWIM TEAM...
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' DEVELOPMENT IS ON A DIFFERENT LEVEL, HUH?
...MAYBE I'LL JOIN THE SWIM TEAM...
IT'S GONNA BE HARD TO FOLLOW THAT.
CURSE YOU AND YOUR UNDERHANDED TRICKS, SWIM TEAM!
HMM?
I WONDER IF THEY HAVE ANY HOTTIES?
CHATTER
CHATTER
THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM'S NEXT, HUH?
NEXT UP, THE BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS GOING TO INTRODUCE THEMSELVES.

WHOA!
HEY! WHAT THE--?!!!
CHATTER CHATTER
HUH?! HUH?!! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?!
WE DON'T KNOW, BUT COME ALONG ANY-WAY!!
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, AOSHI-MA!!
DUH- DOES IT REALLY HAVE TO BE ME?!
IF AT ALL POS-SIBLE, YES!!
WE ARE MEMBERS OF AN EVIL SECRET SOCIETY!
WE'RE HERE TO KIDNAP YOU AND TURN YOU INTO A CYBORG!



ダリダリ SWEAT
SWEAT ダリ
?!
AND HE FREEZES UP...
WE'VE COME THIS FAR...


ATTACK, AOSHIMA!! ATTACK!!

CHANGED SUPER-FAST
WHAT'S HE PLAN-NING?!
ALL RIGHT...
BRING IT ON!
WHUMP
SWISH
SILENCE...
THE POWER OF A PHANTOM MEMBER

WE'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!!
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!!!
ブー BOO!
ブー BOO!
ブー BOO!
ブー BOO!
THAT DIDN'T EXPLAIN ANYTHING!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?!
OH, YES... SORRY, MISS...
UM... CAN I... GO NOW?
I KNEW THIS WAS TOO MUCH FOR AO-SHIMA...
OH... UH... HAHA-HA...
THAT'S ABOUT IT.
...
SO...THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS CURRENTLY SEEKING A CUTE GIRL MANAGER.
BOO! ブー
YOU STOLE THAT FROM THE SOCCER TEAM! DIE, SCUM!!
WAH! WAH! ワー!
BOO! ブー
WE'RE DONE FOR!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?!
ブー BOO
HUH?

CHATTER CHATTER
HUH? ISN'T SHE A SENIOR?
WHO'S THAT?
ISN'T SHE KIND OF CUTE?
THUNK
ガ
タ
ロン
I...ISN'T THAT...
RAN
ITOU?!
WE HAVE A GODDESS HERE!
TO BE CONTIN-UED

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
AOSHIMA WAS IN TROUBLE! BUT THEN, A GODDESS DESCENDED?!
...HUH?
SKREEK

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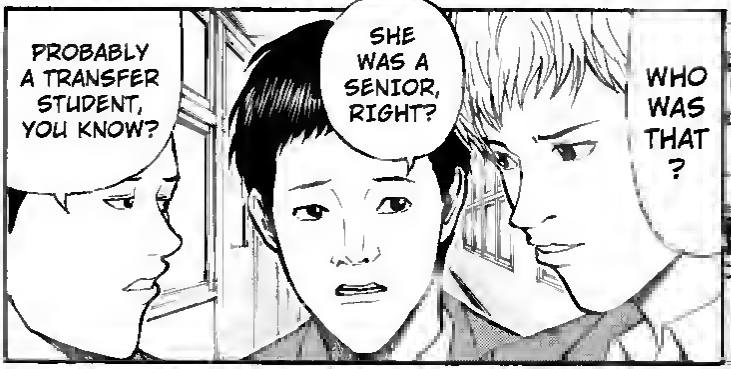
MY WIFE IS WAGA-TSUMA-SAN

SHE APPEARS IN SHORT HAIR! MAKEOVER: SUCCESSFUL!! YES! RAN ITOU!!!

STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART 81



Random Access Memories

RAN !!!!
HEY!!
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO JOIN THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM THAT BADLY?!
YOU EVEN WENT AND CUT YOUR HAIR!!
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ABOUT ?!!!
MIKI.
I'LL NEVER ACCEPT THAT!
THAT'S WHERE THOSE THREE PIECES OF TRASH KOMATSU, ITOU, AND AOSHIMA ARE!!

LET'S LET HER GO.
YO-SHI-KO...
...HUH?
WAIT... BUT...
BUT!
ON THE CONDITION THAT YOU ALSO PAR-TICIPATE WITH US IN THE SUMMER AND WIN-TER!

OKAY?
CAN YOU DO THAT?
NOD
HANG ON, YOSHI-KO!!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?!
OH, I'M SORRY.
I JUST, YOU KNOW ...
PLOP
THOUGHT IT MUST HAVE TAKEN HER A LOT OF COURAGE TO DO THAT.

WAS RAN'S WAY OF DEMONSTRATING HER DETERMINATION TO CHANGE HERSELF.
I THINK CUTTING HER HAIR AND SHOWING HER FACE...
OH YEAH, THAT TOO, BUT...
YEAH, SHE DID DECLARE SHE'D JOIN IN FRONT OF THE WHOLE SCHOOL.
IF RAN WANTS TO CHANGE, I CAN'T STOP HER.
I DON'T KNOW THE REASON BEHIND IT, BUT...
SHE'LL COME BACK TO US HAVING GROWN FROM HER EXPERIENCES, BOTH GOOD AND BAD.
RAN IS AN ARTIST.
IT'LL BE LONELY WITHOUT HER, BUT WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
Y...
YOSHIKO!!

AND...
SHE'LL DRAW A BOOK THAT'LL MAKE US EVEN MORE MONEY!
PHEW! YOU'VE ALREADY THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GETTING OUT OF IT!!
YOU'RE ONE SCARY CHICK!
HUUUH?!
FLINCH

DON'T LOOK AT ME.
-SIGH- WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
IS THAT FOR REAL?!
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO HIM?
IT LOOKS LIKE SEKIBUN DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA OF YOU BEING CAPTAIN.
IT'S AOSHIMA-KUN...
BUT...
WOW... THAT'S AMAZING...
HUH?! AOSHIMA-KUN IS THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN?!
THAT'S GONNA BE ROUGH.
I'M GONNA BE FIRED IF I DON'T FIND TWELVE NEW MEMBERS, HUH?

WHY ?!!!
IT DIDN'T LAST LONG, BUT GOOD WORK AS CAPTAIN, AOSHIMA...
HE'LL BE FIRED UNLESS HE FINDS TWELVE NEW MEMBERS?!
I...
DON'T WANNA QUIT BEING CAPTAIN!!
HUH?
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO CUT IT SO SHORT?

PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S A WASTE...
FWISH
コ
NOD
クン
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP
ドキ
THUMP
I HAVE TO CHANGE!
RUSTLE
I THINK THIS MUST BE MY CHANCE.
I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS AOSHIMA-KUN THIS YEAR...
SNIP

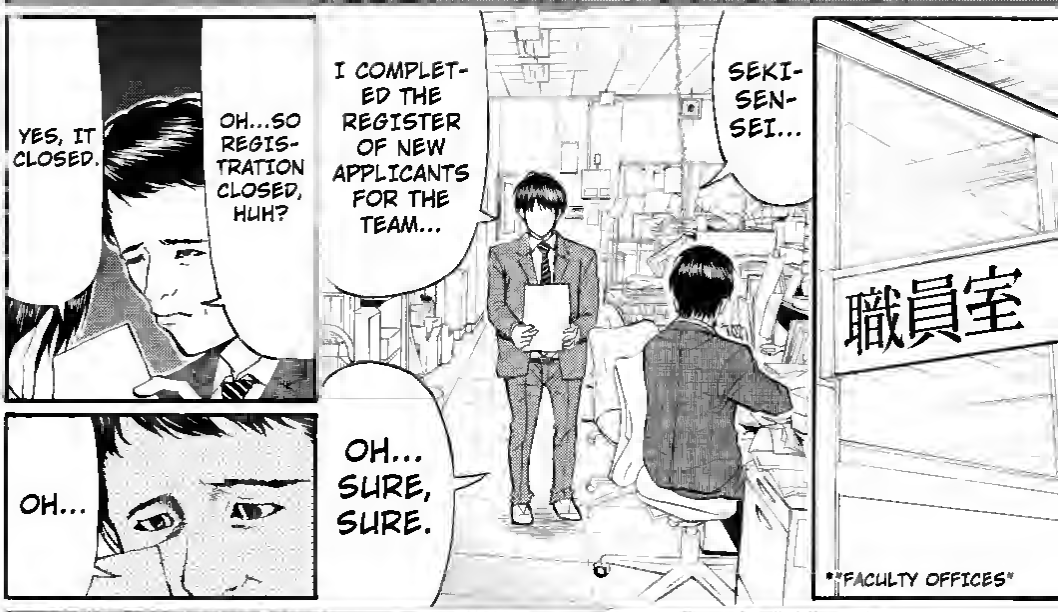
UM... ARE YOU... REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?
YOU REALLY WANT TO BE OUR MANAG-ER?
I'LL DO MY BEST !!!!
OHHH!!
TURN
KLAK
KLAK
WAAA
WAAA
WAAA

LET'S GO RECRUIT SOME FRESHMEN!!
THAT'S RIGHT!! IF WE GET ELEVEN MORE MEMBERS, THEN I GET TO STAY CAPTAIN!!
HMM?
WHICH MEANS...
DUDE!! HELP ME OUT HERE!!
WHY NOT JUST LET ME BE CAPTAIN?
SLUMP
HUUUH?

*"COME TO THE BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM!!"

来たれ!!
男子バレー部
来たれ!!
男子バレー部
来たれ!!
男子バレー部

—TWO WEEKS LATER—



*"FACULTY OFFICES"

HIS EFFORT WAS FOR NAUGHT?!

WE'RE ON BREAK NEXT WEEK. LOOK FOR-WARD TO OUR RETURN IN TWO WEEKS.

*"LIGHT OF THE FIREFLIES," OFTEN USED AS A GRADUATION SONG

TOO BAD ABOUT YOU BEING DISMISSED AS CAPTAIN, AOSHIMA-KUN!
FAREWELL, CAPTAIN AOSHIMA
STOP ENJOY-ING THIS, YOU PIECES OF CRAP !!!!

STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART 82
Yeah!
OH MY, I'M NOT THE ONE WHO LOST YOU YOUR JOB, MADAM!
I HAVEN'T BEEN FIRED OFFICIALLY YET!
...YEAH.
...
THE DEAL WAS THAT UNLESS YOU FOUND TWELVE NEW MEMBERS, YOU'RE FIRED, RIGHT?
FURU-HATA...*
AND...HOW MANY DID YOU ACTUALLY GET?
HMM...
*TV DETECIVE FROM THE SERIES "FURUHATA NINZABURO"
SHUT UP, TRASH !!!!
BEEN NICE KNOW-ING YA!!
ONLY...
EIGHT.
THIS GUY DOESN'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP...
YOU NEVER KNOW!! SEKIBUN MIGHT CHANGE HIS MIND!!

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

AND IT'S HIS FAULT FOR ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE LIKE "FIND TWELVE NEW MEMBERS!" IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
THIS IS THE WORST.
AHHH! JEEZ!
I...
I...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
AHHH! STOP THAT!! I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER!!
WITH ALL MY MIGHT AND EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING!! WHAT ABOUT IT?
AM GOING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES AS ZAISHO VOLLEYBALL TEAM CAPTAIN...
HITOSHI AOSHIMA...

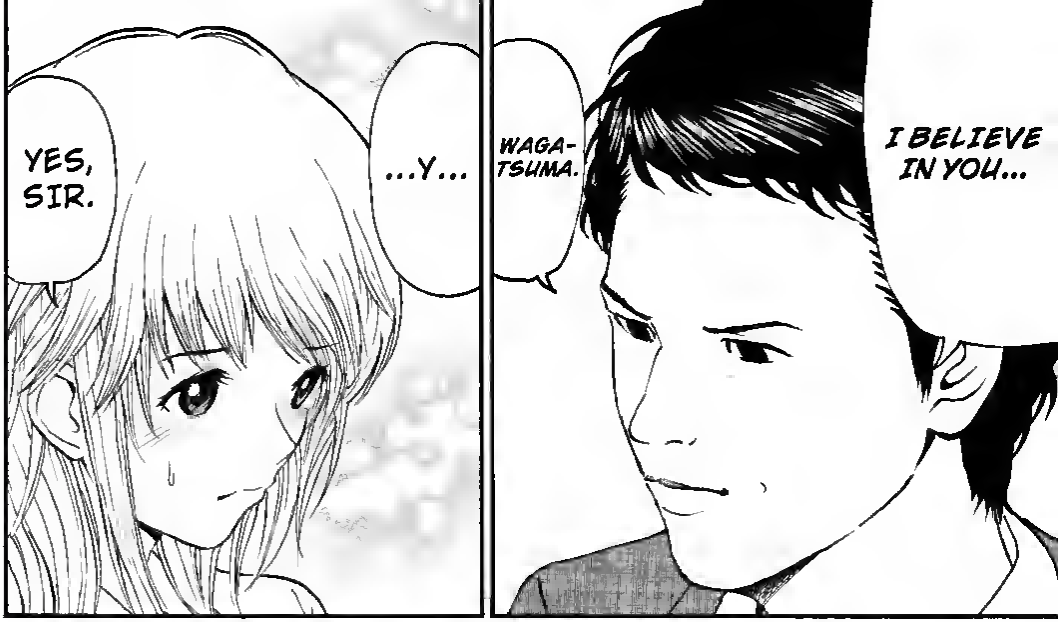
IF SHE SEES I'VE FAILED MY VERY FIRST MISSION OF FINDING NEW MEMBERS...
I SAID I'D FULFILL MY DUTIES WITH ALL MY MIGHT AND EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING, BUT...
I SHOWED OFF IN FRONT OF WAGATSUMA-SAN!!
DANG IT! DANG IT!!
WILL WAGA-TSUMA-SAN THINK OF ME?
WHAT...
AOSHIMA-KUN...
WOW, YOU ARE JUST USELESS, HUH?
WH... WH... WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!
THIS IS DEFINITE-LY NOT GOOD!!
NOT GOOD! NOT GOOD!! NOT GOOD!!!

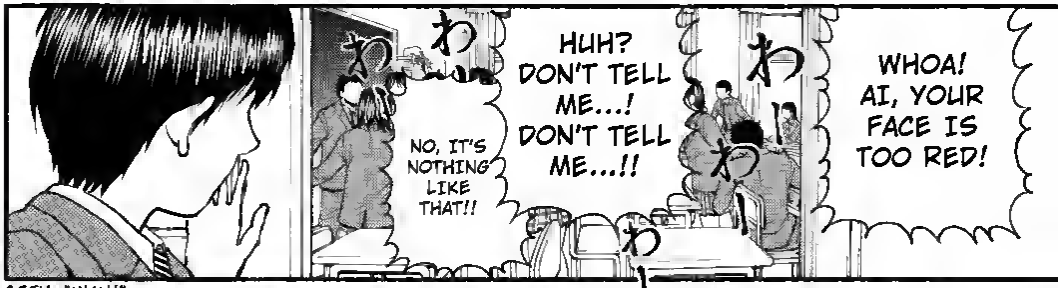
ワイ
WHAT THE?
ワイ
YAY!
YAY!
OHHH, THAT JERK!
THAT'S IT. LOOKIN' GOOD.
UM.
THE DERIVATIVE OF sin χ IS cos χ, AND THE DERIVATIVE OF cos χ IS..... −sin χ, SO...
$(\tan\chi)' = \left(\frac{\sin\chi}{\cos\chi}\right)$
WHICH MAKES IT
$= \frac{(\sin\chi)'}{(\cos\chi)'}$ SO...
$-\frac{\cos\chi}{\sin\chi}$?
QUESTION:
WHAT IS THE DERIVATIVE OF tan X?
WHAT'S HE DOING NOW?!
?

HMM.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, WAGA-TSUMA?
$\frac{1}{\cos^2\chi}$?
THE AN-SWER IS...
WELL...I THINK THERE WAS AN ERROR IN HIS CAL-CULATIONS...
LET'S SEE...

OHHHHHHH!
おおおおお
ARGH! DANG IT!!
CORRECT, WAGA-TSUMA.
CORRECT ANSWERS ARE THINGS OF BEAUTY SUCH AS THIS.
BEHOLD, SHIGE-YOSHI, WAGA-TSUMA'S ANSWER.
AND I WAS PRETTY CONFI-DENT TOO!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING DURING OUR BREAK TIME?
ワイ ワイ ワイ ワイ
*SMART PEOPLE OFTEN QUIZ EACH OTHER EVEN DURING THEIR BREAKS.
THERE IS NO OTHER FIELD OF STUDY WITH SUCH UNITY.
BUT MATHE-MATICS IS SO LOGICAL THAT NO MATTER WHO SOLVES A PROBLEM, THEY WILL ARRIVE AT THE SAME ANSWER.
NO TWO HUMANS THINK ALIKE.
WHAT IS HE EVEN TALKING ABOUT ?!!!
THAT IS THE BEAUTY OF MATH!

S... SEN-SEI!
THANK YOU, SIR!!
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!
THAT CONCLUDES THIS SEKI MATH DOJO STREET EXAM.
SHIGE-YOSHI?
WHAT IS IT?
REALLY INTENSE, HUH?
ヘヘっ HEHEH!
MATH IS...
YES, SIR?
WAGA-TSUMA.
WHAT THE HECK?! WHAT WAS THAT?!
ISN'T IT?
HEH!


YES, SIR.
...Y...
WAGA-TSUMA.
I BELIEVE IN YOU...


わ
NO, IT'S NOTHING LIKE THAT!!
HUH? DON'T TELL ME...! DON'T TELL ME...!!
WHOA! AI, YOUR FACE IS TOO RED!

*SFX: "WAH!"

IN A BAD DIRECTION...
IS HEADED...

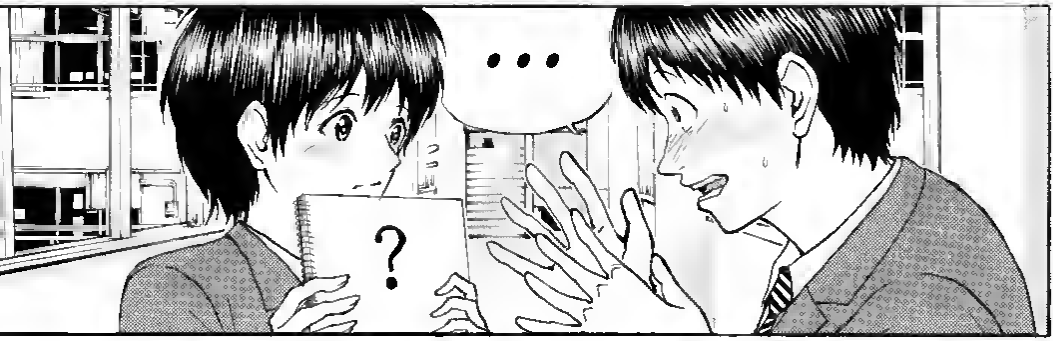
IT'S NO USE... EVERY-THING...

NO...

I KEEP HEADING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM MY HAPPY FUTURE...
IN THE END, I'M JUST WORTHLESS, AND THAT'S WHY EVERY-THING ALWAYS TAKES A TURN FOR THE WORSE, HUH?
AND IN THE END...
I'VE GOT A BAD END WAITING FOR ME, HUH?
キュッ
SKREEK

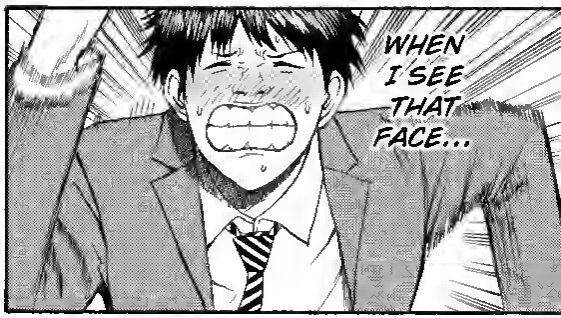
HUH?
WHAT IS IT?
WHOA! ITOU-SAN?!
F6
Campus
FWIP
YOU WERE A BIG HELP!
NO!
I MEAN IT!!
AFTER THAT LACK-LUSTER PRESEN-TATION IS BE-CAUSE OF YOU, ITOU-SAN...
AND THE ONLY REASON WE GOT AN ABOVE-AVERAGE NUMBER OF APPLI-CANTS...
Sorry I wasn't any help.
(T T)

OH...


...
?

THANKS A LOT, ITOU-SAN!!
B-BUT, ANYWAY, IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!!
ZOOM

NO...
OH...
IT'S NO-THING.



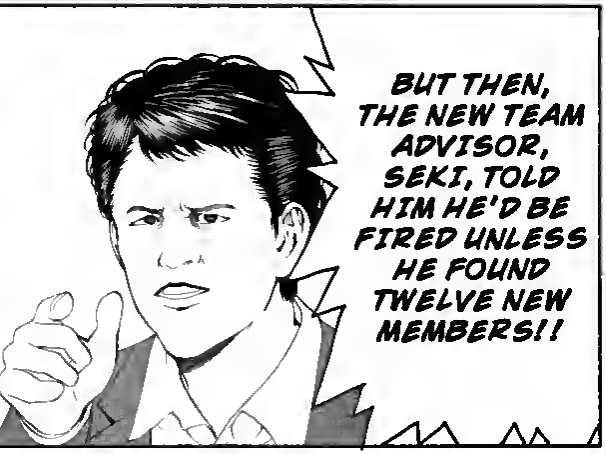
YOU WON'T FOOL ME!!

DANG IT!!

I'LL PROBABLY GET MY PINK SLIP DURING PRACTICE TODAY, HUH?
ガラッ
THUNK
BUT STILL...
CLUB ROOM
WHOA!
NO WAY! HE WON'T JOIN?!
HUH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
FOR REAL?! AND I WAS HOPING HE'D JOIN!!
I DID TRY TO CONVINCE HIM, BUT...
NOPE...
HUH... TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT?
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.
HE LED A WEAK TEAM FROM THE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRELIMS ALL THE WAY TO THE THIRD ROUND OF THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT...
HE'S A CRAZY GOOD VOLLEYBALL PLAYER !!!!
THERE'S A REALLY GOOD PLAYER IN THIS YEAR'S FRESHMAN CLASS.

IT LOOKS LIKE OUR ADVISOR TRIED TO CONVINCE HIM TO JOIN TOO, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK...
HUH? SEKI-BUN TRIED TOO?!
BUT HE APPARENTLY DOESN'T PLAN TO JOIN THE TEAM...
HUH? WHY NOT?
WE DON'T KNOW !!!!
HMM...
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME, AS CAP-TAIN, TO ROLL UP MY SLEEVES.
THEN MAYBE I CAN STAY ON AS CAPTAIN...
THIS GUY, HE'S...
A FRESH-MAN NAMED "KAWAI."
WILL HE SEIZE THIS CHANCE TO TURN THINGS AROUND?!
TO BE CONTINUED

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
THE STORY SO FAR!!



THAT'S WHEN HE HEARD THERE WAS AN AMAZINGLY GOOD VOLLEYBALL-PLAYING FRESHMAN! IF AOSHIMA CAN CONVINCE THIS FRESHMAN TO JOIN THE TEAM, CAN HE STAY ON AS CAPTAIN?!
THAT'S WHAT AOSHIMA THINKS!! BUT WILL THINGS REALLY GO SO SMOOTHLY?!

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
WHEN AM I GOING TO GET SOME SCREEN-TIME?
STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART 83
Before my body is dry
1-B
U-UM, YOU'RE KAWAI-KUN, AREN'T YOU?
WHOA! HE'S HUGE!
YEAH?
...YEAH.
I'M AOSHIMA, A SENIOR ON THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM...

SEN-
PAI...
OH...
HEY!
YES?
I'LL NEVER JOIN THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM, OKAY?
...

YEAH!! YEAH!! WHAT WAS THAT?! TALK ABOUT SCARY!!
I'M ABOUT TO CRY OVER HERE!!
RIGHT?
SEE?! SEE?! ISN'T HE STUB-BORN ?!!!
DOES HE ACT LIKE THAT WITH EVERY-ONE?!
YEAH, HE TREATED US LIKE THAT TOO.
PLUS, I HEARD HE TOOK THE SAME ATTITUDE WITH SEKIBUN TOO.
WITH SEKI-BUN TOO?!
HEHEH...
HUH?
HE SOUNDS LIKE A FINE YOUNG MAN...

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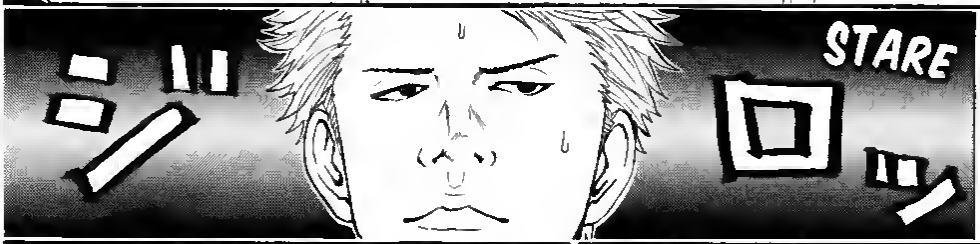
I KNOW, RIGHT?
BUT HE'S A REALLY AMAZING GUY, HUH?
AND IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, HE PULLED A WEAK LITTLE, NO-NAME VOLLEY-BALL TEAM ALL THE WAY TO THE PRELIMI-NARIES OF THE PREFECTURAL TOURNAMENT.
HE'S BEEN PLAYING VOLLEY-BALL SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
賞状
THIS WAS OUR SCHOOL I'M TALKING ABOUT.
WOW...
WELL...

I WANT TO PLAY VOLLEY-BALL WITH HIM AGAIN...
...HUH?



*SIGN: "MEN'S RESTROOM"

I STILL THINK YOU SHOULD JOIN THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM, KAWAI-KUN.
YEAH, YEAH. YOU SHOULD JOIN. OKAY?
Isn't volley-ball great?
*SIGN: "THIS WAY TO THE BOYS' VOLLEYBALL TEAM.♡"
WELL, THIS SUCKS.

HEY, ONII-CHAN.
I KEEP INVITING HIM AND INVITING HIM, BUT HE STILL WON'T JOIN...
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE THE CAPTAIN THAT BAD?
YOU'RE WAY TOO DESPER-ATE.
WHA ?!!!
LICKA-LICKA-LING
THEN WHAT IS IT?
WELL... THAT'S NOT ALL THERE IS TO IT THOUGH...
WELL, YEAH, HIKA-RI...

YEAH, I WON-DER...
T.S. ACTIVE
WHAT THE...?!!!
OHHH!!
NICE
...
...HUH?
イェイ YEAH!
イェイ YEAH!
...HUH?

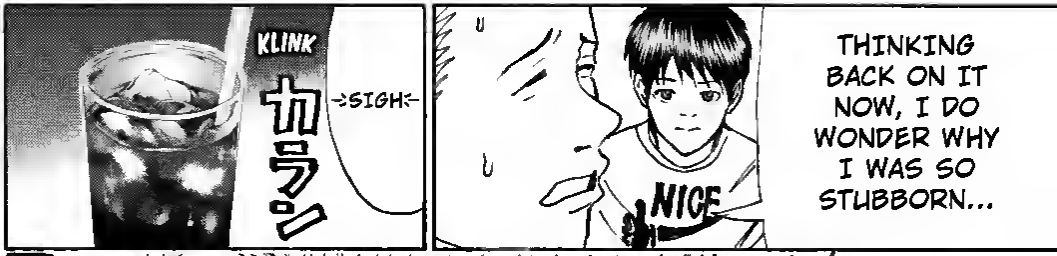
IT'S A VOLLEY-BALL TEAM REUNION!! ARE YOU DRUNK AL-READY?!
WHAT KIND OF...GET-TOGETHER IS THIS?
OH...A REUNION, EH?
OR THERE...
HE'S NOT HERE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HE NEVER JOINED THE TEAM.
HUH? KAWAI?

NICE
?
SO IT DIDN'T WORK OUT, HUH?
NICE
NICE
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ONCE YOU SEE HIM?
WELL, OKAY...I DO HAVE HIS CONTACT INFORMATION.
HUH? YOU WANT TO SEE KAWAI?

DID YOU REALLY COME TO ASK THAT AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
THE REASON I DIDN'T JOIN THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM?
WHAT THE HECK, MAN?
YEAH...
WELL...
MY KNEE...
I INJUR-ED...

THE JOINT WAS ALWAYS WEAK, SO FORCING MYSELF TO PLAY WORE AWAY THE CARTILAGE...
WELL, I THINK I WAS JUST BORN THIS WAY...
...HUH?
NICE
AROUND THE TIME I LEFT MIDDLE SCHOOL, MY DOCTOR TOLD ME TO AVOID EXERCISE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
IN THAT CASE ...
SO THAT'S WHY...
I COULDN'T TELL YOU!
IF YOU HAD TOLD ME TEN YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS PESTERING YOU ABOUT JOINING...
NICE

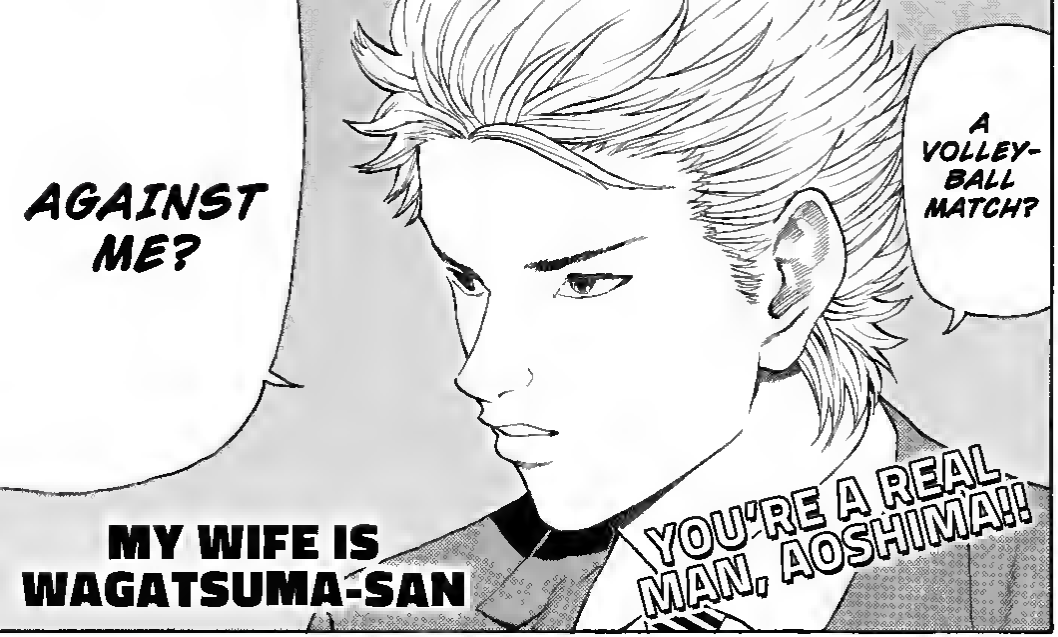
AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS SO UN-COOL...
I MEAN, IT WAS LIKE I GAVE UP OR SOME-THING...
HUH?

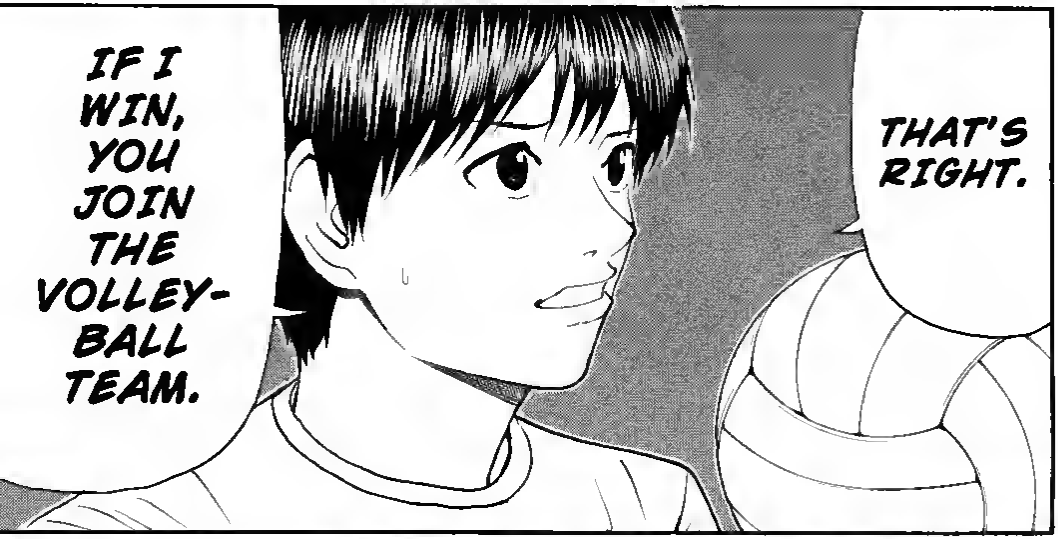

KLINK
カラン
→SIGH←
THINKING BACK ON IT NOW, I DO WONDER WHY I WAS SO STUBBORN...

WHAT A BORING THREE YEARS THAT WAS...

OH...
HUH?
DOES THAT...
UM...
T.S. OVER
"WHAT A BORING THREE YEARS THAT WAS..."
SO, KAWAI-KUN, DOES THAT MEAN...
YOU REALLY REGRET NOT JOIN-ING?
IS HE REAL-LY...
...OKAY WITH THAT?

HUH?
I CHALLENGE YOU TO A VOLLEYBALL BATTLE!
IF I WIN, YOU JOIN THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM!!
BOOM!!
CAN I, LIKE, APOLOGIZE ON MY HANDS AND KNEES OR SOME-THING?
WHAT IF I WIN?
A SHONEN MAGAZINE-ESQUE BATTLE BEGINS!!
TO BE CONTIN-UED


A VOLLEY-BALL MATCH?
AGAINST ME?
YOU'RE A REAL MAN, AOSHIMA!!


IF I WIN, YOU JOIN THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM.
THAT'S RIGHT.

NO...
YOU SCARED?
WHAT IS IT?

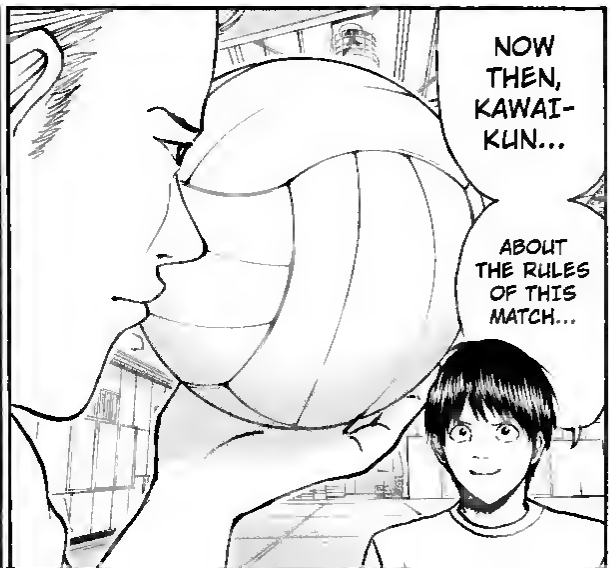
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN

COME TO THE GYM AFTER SCHOOL!

OKAY? OKAY?!

STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART 84
RE: I AM



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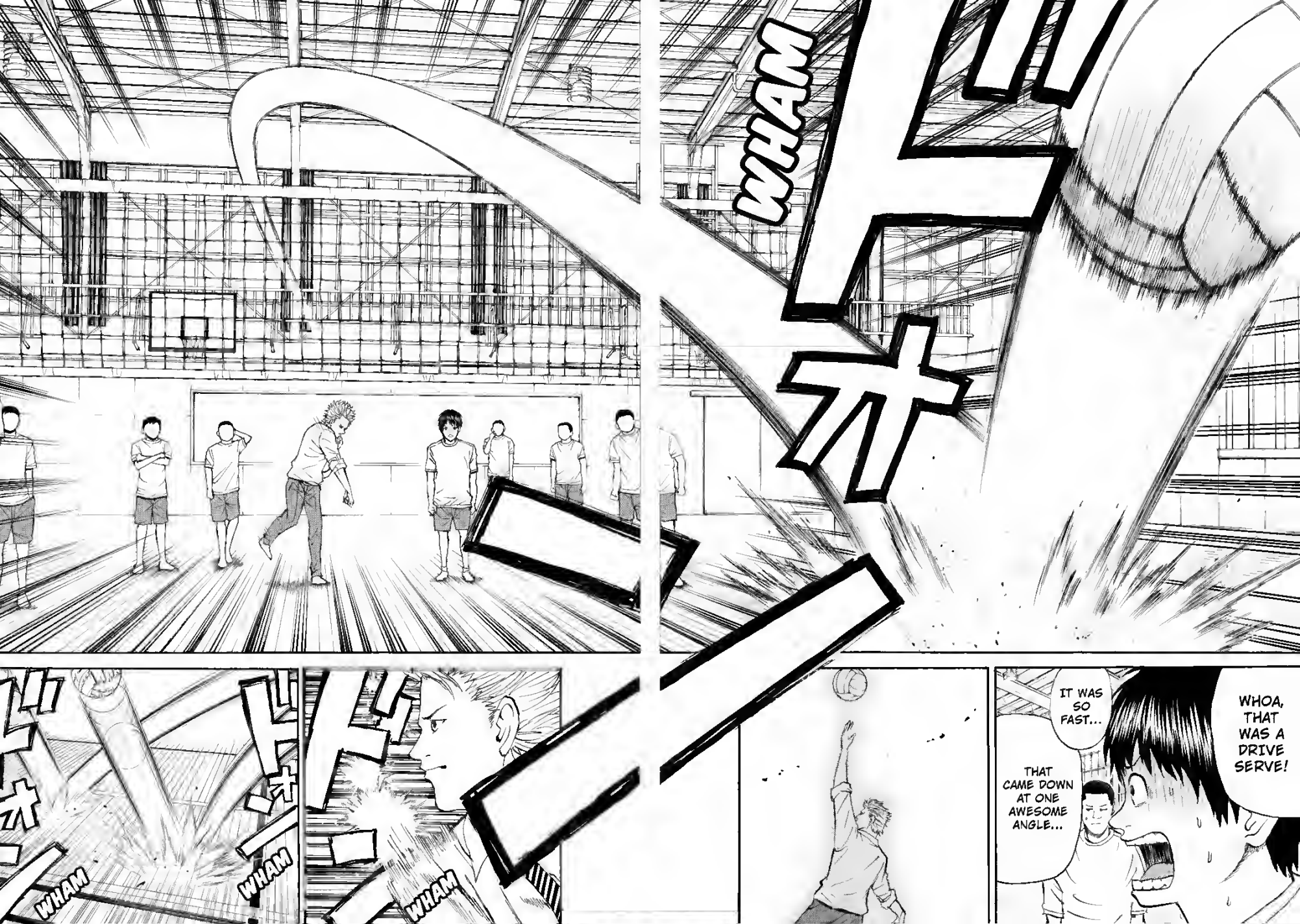

WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHOA, THAT WAS A DRIVE SERVE!
IT WAS SO FAST...
THAT CAME DOWN AT ONE AWESOME ANGLE...

NOW THEN...
-:PHEW:-
I'LL LEAVE THOSE UP TO YOU, SEN-PAI.
ABOUT THE RULES OF THE MATCH...
BUT!!
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE...
I'VE EVEN GOT A CHANCE...

I'VE GOT NO OTHER CHOICE!!

WHAT ARE SETTING DRILLS?
MUCH LIKE JUGGLING IN SOCCER, SETTING DRILLS ARE WHEN THE PLAYER PRACTICES HITTING THE BALL OVER HIS HEAD REPEATEDLY.

SET-TING DRILLS, HUH?
YEAH.

テン
テン
*SFX: "BAP / BAP"

テン
テン
テン
*SFX: "BAP / BAP / BAP"

YEAH...
THIS IS, LIKE, A REALLY BORING MATCH, HUH?
テン
テン
*SFX: "BAP / BAP"

SEN-PAI...
HEY...

テン
テン
テン
*SFX: "BAP / BAP / BAP"

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

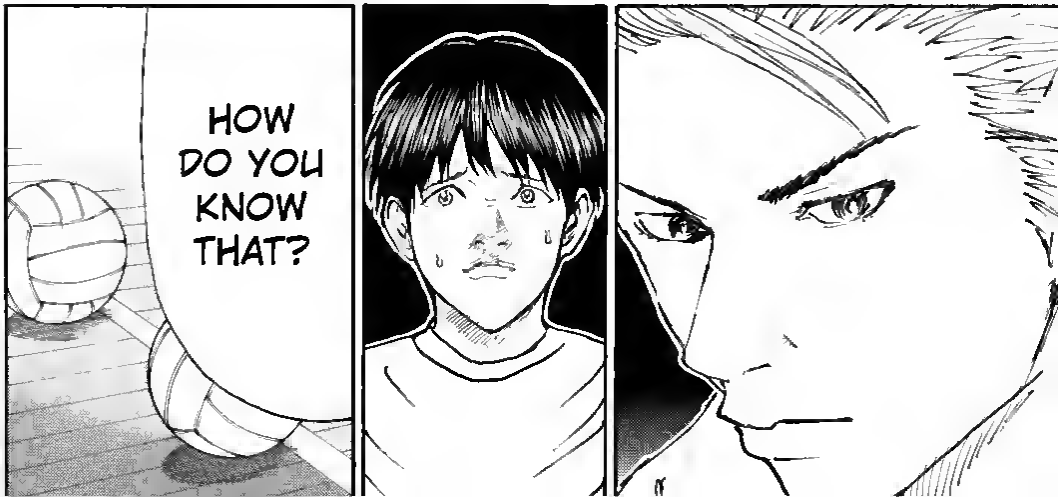
WHY...
...AM I DOING IT?
WHY...
ooo
WHY AM I DOING IT?
HUH?
OH...
AT FIRST IT WAS SO I COULD KEEP BEING CAPTAIN...
BUT...

*SFX: "WHAP"
OH...
バシッ
THAT WAS...
WHAT A BORING THREE YEARS...

WH
AP
OKAY.
...
GAME OVER.

KAWAI-KUN.
GUESS I'LL HEAD HOME THEN.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ON YOUR HANDS AND KNEES, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT.

IN TEN YEARS.
IF YOU DON'T JOIN NOW, YOU'LL REGRET IT...


HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

YOU HAVE A BUM KNEE...
DON'T YOU?
?!
KAWAI-IIIII!!
HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?
GRAB

IS THAT TRUE ?!!!
...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
WHY?!
I'M SORRY...

I MEAN... SINCE I ALWAYS HELD YOU BACK...
YOU MADE ME THINK YOU DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY WITH ME ANY-MORE!!
COURSE NOT.
OF...
NO, WE CAN'T SAY THAT FOR CERTAIN.
A GUY WITH A BUSTED KNEE JOINS THE TEAM, IS IT?
WAHHH...
BUT IT'S NOT GONNA HELP ANY-THING IF...

SEKI-BUN!!
EEP!
ESPE-CIALLY OUR SEN-IORS.
I CAN'T EXACTLY SAY WE'RE A HIGH-LEVEL TEAM.
SO I HAVE A PROPOS-AL...

WHY DON'T YOU JOIN AS A COACH AND MANAGER?
WELL...
I'LL...
THINK IT OVER.
WELL...
YOU DID SECURE AN ABOVE-AVERAGE NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS THIS YEAR AND CONVINCE KAWAI TO JOIN...
YOU DIDN'T QUITE GET THE NUMBER I GAVE YOU, BUT...

ALL RIGHT !!!!
FOR REAL ?!!!
I'LL ACCEPT YOU AS PROVISIONAL CAPTAIN, AOSHIMA-KUN.
WOO-HOO!
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS LOOK?!
TO BE CONTINUED

THIS YEAR, A SLIGHT CHANGE HAS OCCURRED IN OUR SCHOOL.

THIS IS A SERIOUSLY SHOCKING CHAPTER!!

IN THE BOYS VOLLEY-BALL TEAM.

THAT CHANGE TOOK PLACE...

YEAH!

SMK

SOUND OFF, BOYS!!

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
WAIT-ING FOR A WAVE TO GIVE HER A LITTLE PUSH.
STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS JUMPED DRASTICALLY TO TWENTY!
THIS YEAR, THE BOYS VOLLEYBALL TEAM CONSISTS OF 9 FRESHMEN, 6 JUNIORS, 3 SENIORS, AND 2 MANAGERS.

IS A HARDCORE PLAYER WHO STUCK WITH IT ALL THE WAY THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND COLLEGE.
ITS NEW ADVISOR, SEKI-SENSEI...

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

HIS OUTSTANDING SKILLS WILL SURELY RAISE THE LEVEL OF THE TEAM AS A WHOLE.
AND THE ONE TO WATCH IS THEIR NEWEST MEMBER AND MANAGER / COACH (!!), KAWAI-KUN.

EFFORTLESSLY ENERGIZING THE TEAM.
すっぺー
おー レモンの砂糖漬けか
うめー
THE NEW MANAGER, ITOU-SAN, IS ATTENTIVE TO THE MEMBERS' NEEDS DOWN TO THE SMALLEST DETAILS...

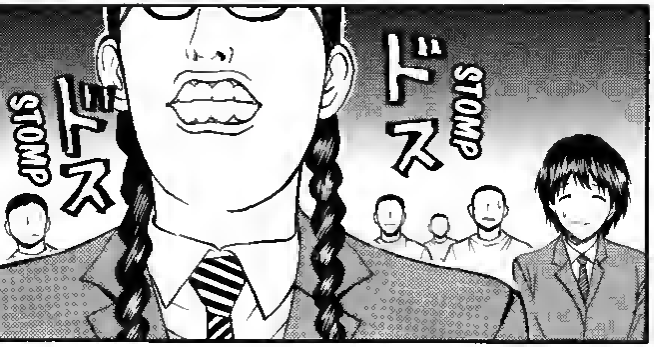
*TEXT: "OH, CANDIED LEMONS, EH?" "THAT'S SOUR!" "THESE ARE GOOD!"

OH, YEAH! THAT'S IT!
I GUESS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE CAPTAIN AOSHIMA.
YEAH, WHAT IS IT?
HUH? DRIVING FORCE?
WE ASKED ABOUT THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE CHANGE.

AND IT'S NOT...HIS LEADER-SHIP SKILLS EITHER.
HIS CHARISMA? NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
WHEN IT COMES TO VOLLEY-BALL, KAWAI-CCHI'S A LOT BETTER.
YEAH, WHAT IS IT?
HUH? WHAT EXACTLY IS SO AMAZING ABOUT HIM?
WHOA! HOW PETTY!!
BUT THE OTHER DAY, HE CRIED BECAUSE KOMATSU-SAN ATE ALL THE CANDIED LEMONS.
MAYBE... THAT HE'S GOT SUCH A BIG HEART?
WELL, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW, BUT...
HMM...
THEN, WHAT IS IT?
UM...
WELL...

"WE DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT HE'S AN AMAZING GUY," SAY THE FRESHMEN.
HUH ?!!!
ME?!
NO, NO! I'M NOT THAT AMAZ-ING!!
NO, FOR REAL !!!!
WE KNOW THAT.
...OH.
...YOU DO?
IT IS DIF-FICULT TO COMPREHEND WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT A FORMER PHANTOM MEMBER LIKE YOU...
...
AND IT SEEMS LIKE A MISTAKE THAT A LOSER LIKE YOU BECAME CAPTAIN IN THE FIRST PLACE...
HEY NOW!

OH, SHUT UP! IT'S TRUE, AIN'T IT?!
WHY ARE YOU WRITING SUCH AWFUL THINGS ?!!!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STOMP
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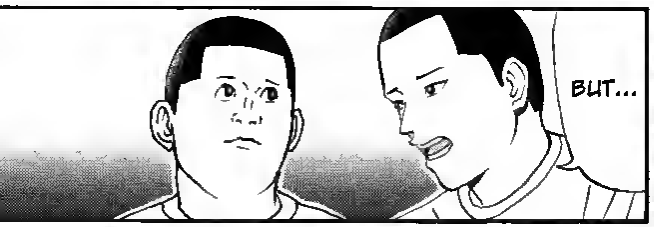
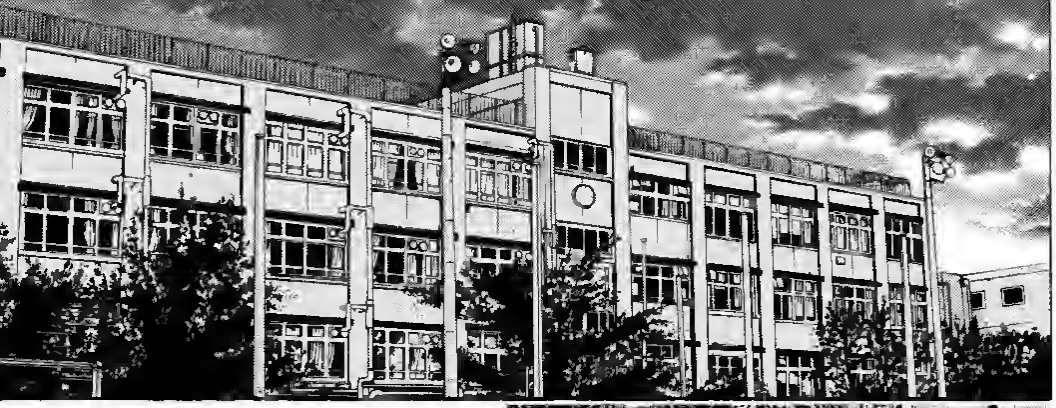

BUT...

YOU TOOK OUR RAN!!
IF ANY-THING BAD HAPPENS, DON'T YOU HESITATE TO QUIT THIS FRIGGIN' TEAM!!

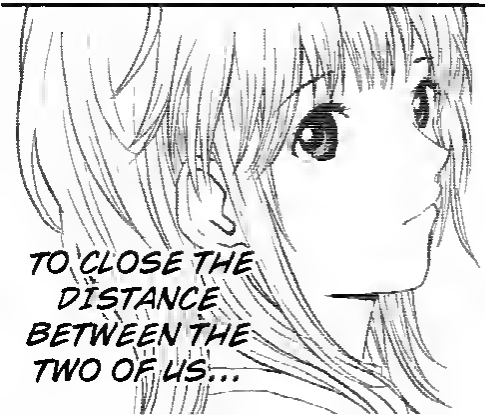
I KNOW, RIGHT?
AOSHIMA-SAN REALLY IS AN INTER-ESTING GUY, HUH?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS ABOUT HIM, BUT HE'S AMAZING, RIGHT?
YEAH, HE SURE IS.



I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY DUTIES WITH ALL MY MIGHT. WHAT ABOUT IT?
I CAN'T LOSE TO THE LIKES OF THIS GUY!!
YOU'RE GOING TO RUN FROM THE CAPTAIN POSITION TOO, ASHIMA-KUN?
WELL...
NO.
...
BOOM

I ONLY ACCEPTED THIS POSITION IN THE FIRST PLACE TO LOOK GOOD IN FRONT OF WAGA-TSUMA-SAN...



THE LESS I RUN INTO WAGA-TSUMA-SAN...
BUT THE MORE WORK I PUT INTO THE TEAM...
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT AT THIS POINT NOW, IS THERE?
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE JUST JOINED THE SWIM TEAM...
GIVE UP ON WAGA-TSUMA-SAN...
MAYBE I REALLY SHOULD...
→SIGH←

I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE HOW TO GET WAGA-TSUMA-SAN TO MARRY ME NOW EITHER.
IT LOOKS LIKE I'M NOT MARRIED TO ANYONE IN THE FUTURE...
MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE UP ON HER AND...
I GUESS THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T CHANGE...
HUH?

NICE WORK TODAY!
OH! HEY THERE, MANA-GER!
WHAT IS IT?
HMM?
I need to talk to you.
HUH?

OH... YOU DO...
I want to ask you some-thing.

KLAK

HUH? WHAT IS IT? YOU WANNA KNOW HOW TO KEEP SCORE OR SOME-THING?

Why did you break up with Wagatsuma-san?
THERE WERE SEVERAL MISUNDER-STANDINGS AND...
ER, HOW CAN I PUT IT?
WHY AM I SO SHAKEN UP?
OH, UH, YOU KNOW...
O-
あせっ
SWEAT

Can't it...
...be me instead?
TURN
グッ
GRAB
...HUH?

I LOVE YOU.
AO-SHIMA-KUN...
SALVATION FROM A GODDESS IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIS EYES!!
TO BE CONTINUED IN AN EVEN MORE SHOCKING DEVELOPEMENT.

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
THE FATE... JUST WON'T STOP!!
HUH?
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

I LOVE YOU.
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
STORY: YUU KURAISHI / COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART-85 Countdown to Extinction

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

RIGHT NOW...
AM I BEING ASKED OUT?!
I MEAN...
ITOU-SAN JUST SAID SHE "LOVES" ME...
YEAH, I GUESS I AM...
HUH...

IT MAKES ME JUST WANT TO...
RUN AWAY AS FAST AS I CAN...
SO THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS LIKE...
TO BE ASKED OUT.
THAT'S HOW EMBAR-RASSING THIS IS!!
ITOU-SAN...
I...

AND ASKED ME OUT.
JOINED THE VOLLEY-BALL TEAM...
I'LL DO MY BEST !!!!
SHE CUT HER LONG HAIR...
NOD コク
SHE REALLY IS...SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
SO WAS I.

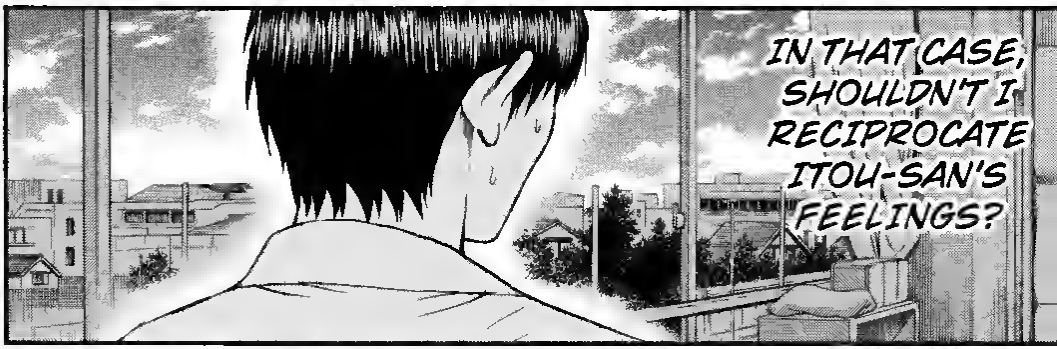
WHEN I ASKED WAGATSUMA-SAN OUT...
すっと好きでした
付き合ってください
I WAS DESPERATE, EARNEST, AND DEAD SERIOUS...

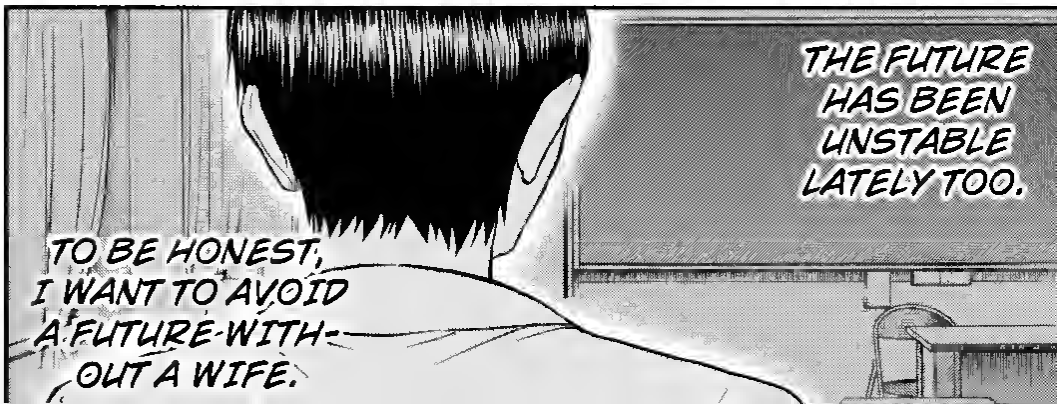
I STILL LOVE WAGA-TSUMA-SAN.
AND EVEN NOW...

BUT!

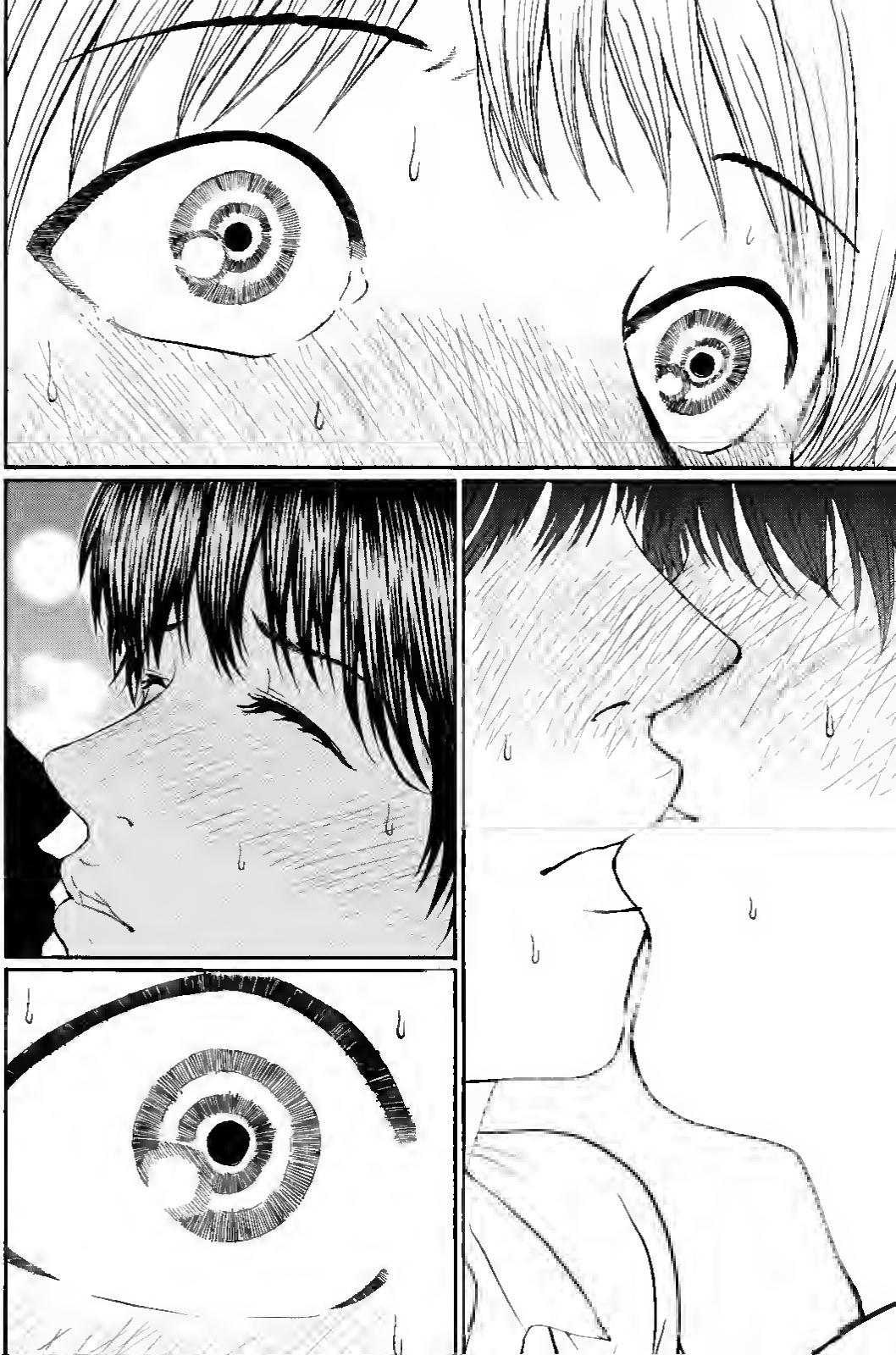
SHOULD I REALLY CONTINUE TO CLING...
TO WAGA-TSUMA-SAN LIKE THIS?

THE PROBABILITY OF WAGATSUMA-SAN FALLING FOR ME IS ASTRO-NOMICALLY LOW.
NO... AT THIS POINT, I MAY AS WELL CALL IT "ZERO."


IN THAT CASE, SHOULDN'T I RECIPROCATE ITOU-SAN'S FEELINGS?


THE FUTURE HAS BEEN UNSTABLE LATELY TOO.
TO BE HONEST, I WANT TO AVOID A FUTURE WITH-OUT A WIFE.

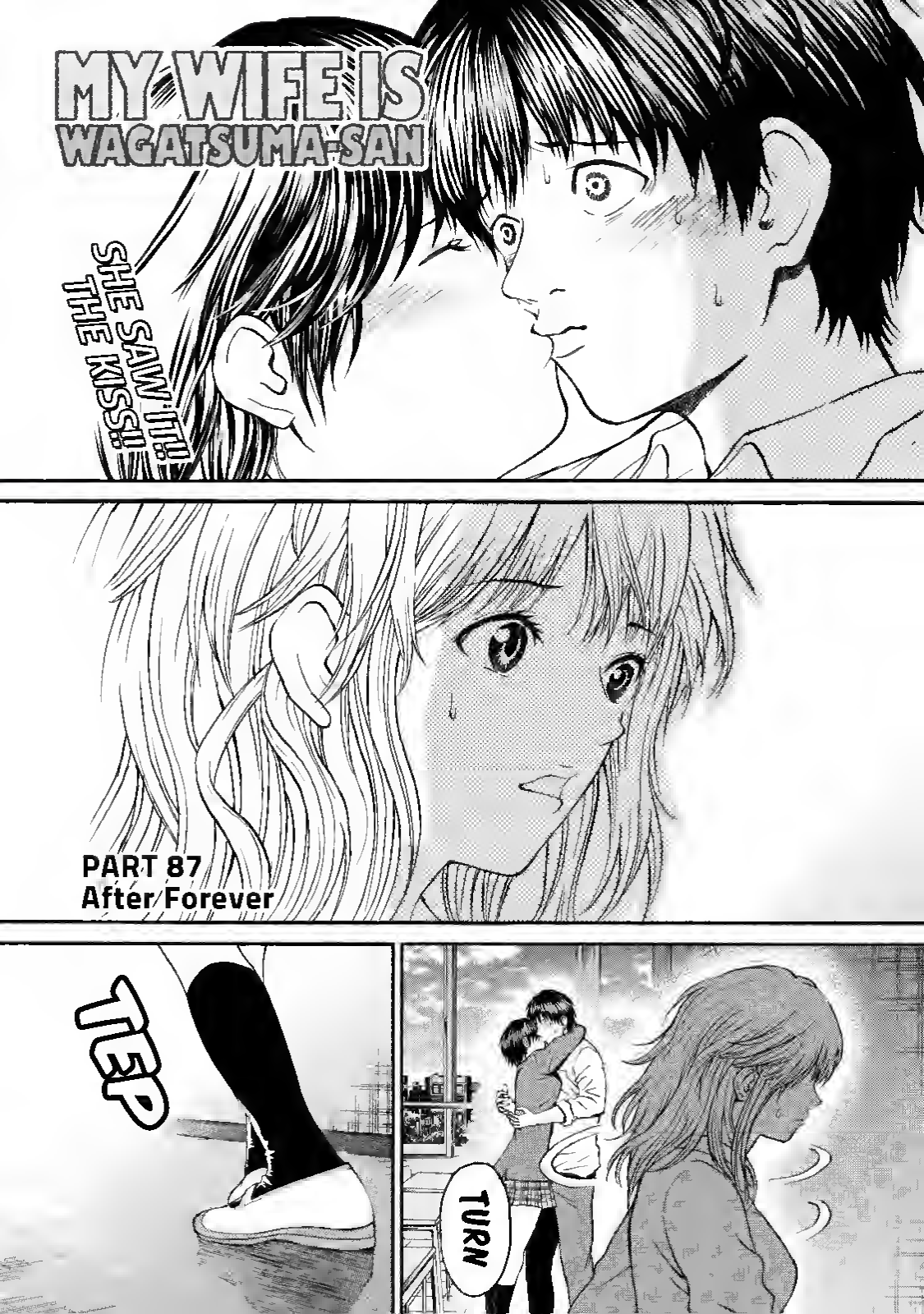
DANG IT...
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I'VE GOT...
NO IDEA...
TIME IS MOVING...
TOO SLOWLY...
DON'T TELL ME...
RIGHT NOW, AM I STANDING AT A CROSSROADS IN MY LIFE?!
YANK
WHY ME?
HEY, UH...



AND WE'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL...
THIS IS THE CLASS-ROOM...
THIS IS WRONG...
ITOU-SAN.
AND I STILL...
LOVE WAGA-TSUMA-SAN.

THIS REALLY IS...
WRONG.

LOCKED INTO THE RAN ROUTE?!
WHAT WILL YOU DO, AOSHIMA?!
TO BE CONTINUED


MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
SHE SAW IT!! THE KISS!!
PART 87
After/Forever
TEP
TURN

STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
WHAT DOES HIS "WIFE" THINK?

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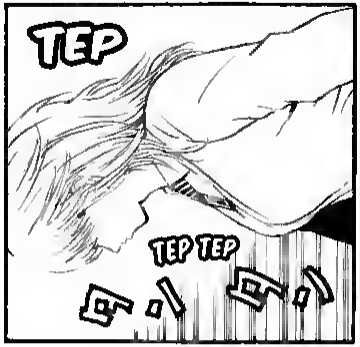
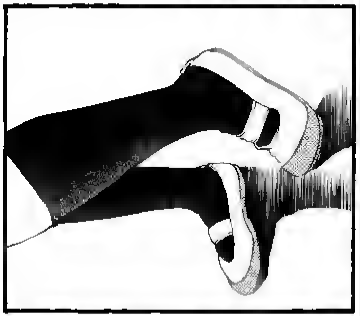
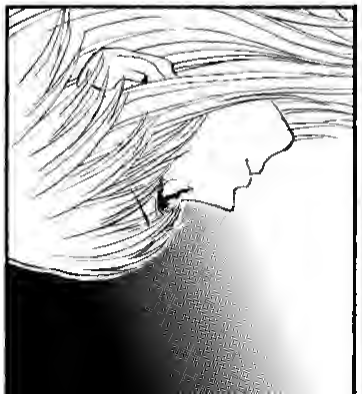
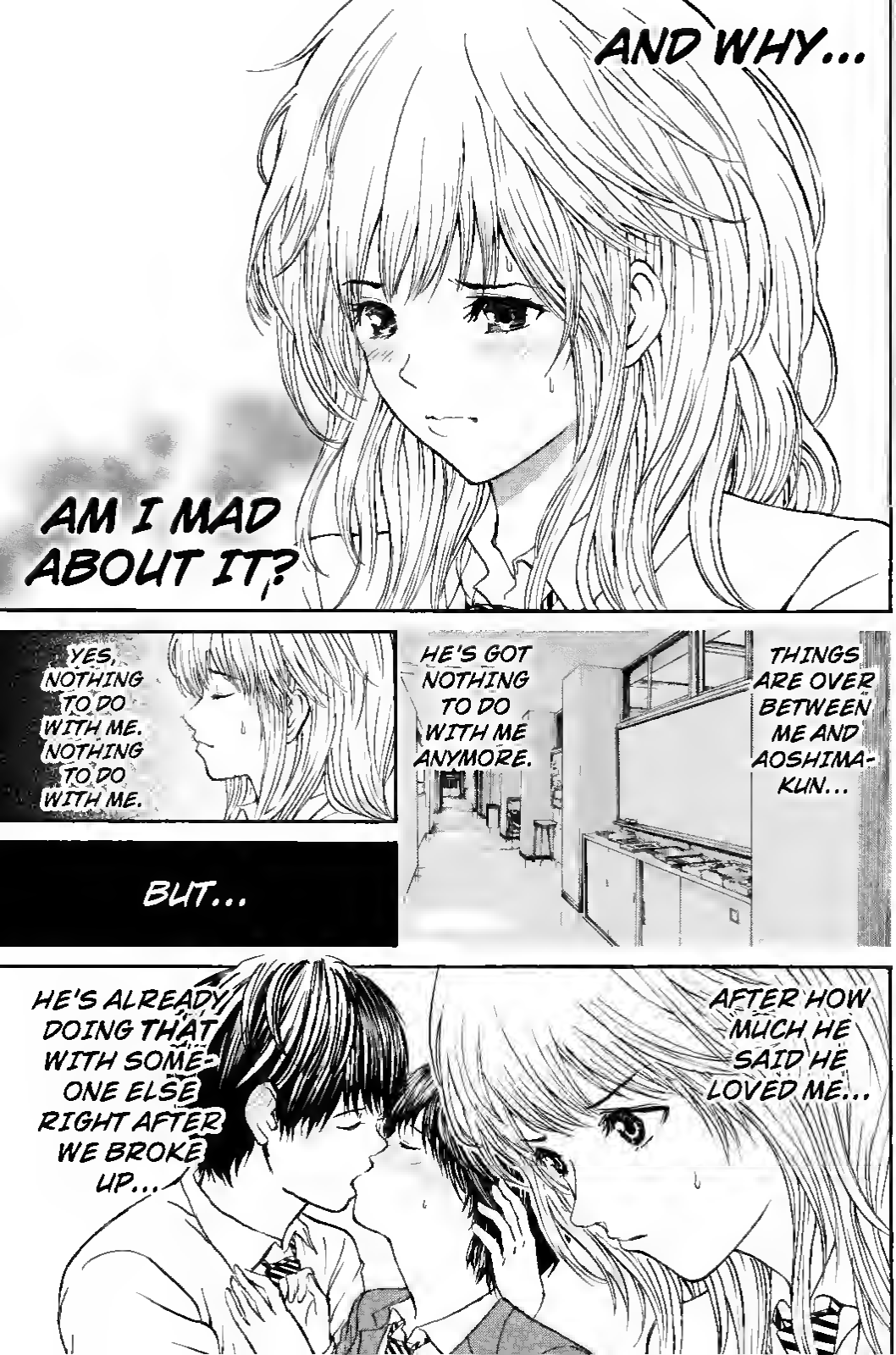






I REALLY CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHY WERE THEY DOING THAT THERE?
3-A
KER-CHUNK

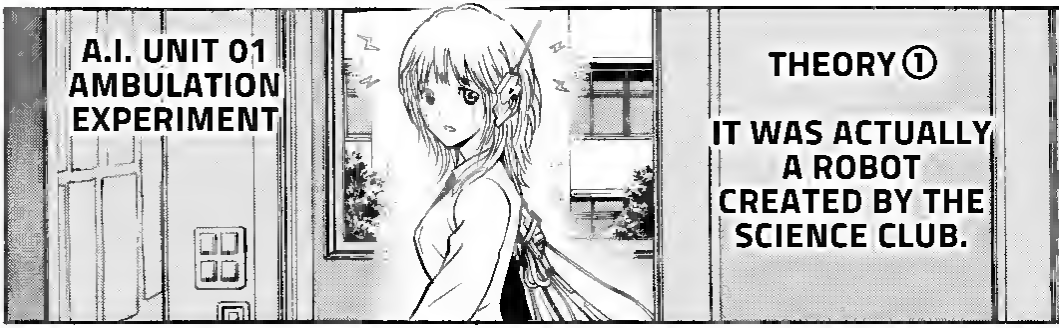

AND WHY...
AM I MAD ABOUT IT?
YES, NOTHING TO DO WITH ME. NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
BUT...
HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME ANYMORE.
THINGS ARE OVER BETWEEN ME AND AOSHIMA-KUN...
HE'S ALREADY DOING THAT WITH SOME-ONE ELSE RIGHT AFTER WE BROKE UP...
AFTER HOW MUCH HE SAID HE LOVED ME...

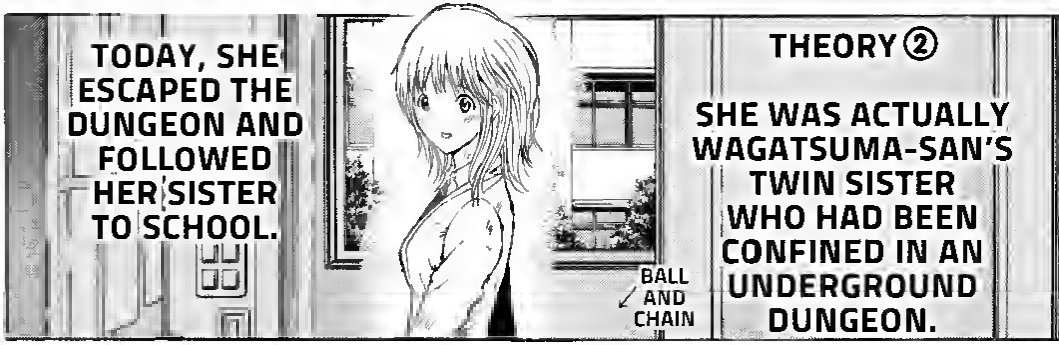
HE'S YOUR CLASSIC CHEATER.
AND HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE'S PROBABLY THE TYPE THAT HOPS FROM ONE WOMAN TO THE NEXT.
AOSHIMA-KUN IS ALWAYS SAYING THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND...
WAIT!
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HIM!!
AHHH! JEEZ! WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?!
消火栓
THAT MAKES IT SOUND LIKE I'VE BEEN CHEATED ON!! EVEN THOUGH HE'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!!

JUST NOW...
THAT WAS WAGATSUMA-SAN I MET EYES WITH... WASN'T IT?
YEAH...
WAGATSUMA-SAN...

WELL, LET'S SEE...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SOMETHING ELSE"?
THE OTHER ME

IT COULD HAVE BEEN... SOMETHING ELSE.
TH-THAT'S WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE, BUT...


A.I. UNIT 01 AMBULATION EXPERIMENT
THEORY ①
IT WAS ACTUALLY A ROBOT CREATED BY THE SCIENCE CLUB.


TODAY, SHE ESCAPED THE DUNGEON AND FOLLOWED HER SISTER TO SCHOOL.
BALL AND CHAIN
THEORY ②
SHE WAS ACTUALLY WAGATSUMA-SAN'S TWIN SISTER WHO HAD BEEN CONFINED IN AN UNDERGROUND DUNGEON.

ONCE AGAIN, SHE'S OUT FOR A STROLL AROUND CAMPUS AS A LIVING SPIRIT.
THEORY ③
WAGATSUMA-SAN OFTEN ASTRALLY PROJECTS HER SPIRIT FROM HER BODY.

HUH ?!!!
WILT ヘナ WILT ヘナ
IT CAN'T BE ANY
WAIT...
OF THOSE !!!!

WHAT?! WHAT'S WRONG ?!!!!
YARGH! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?! WHAT'M I GONNA DO?!

OH JEEZ! I DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'RE SAYING!!
JUST NOW... WALKING IN THE HALL...

EEK! THAT'S MY GAG!!
While we were kissing, my eyes met Wagatsuma-san's as she walked down the hall.
While we were kissing, my eyes met Wagatsuma-

キュッ
SKREEK
ダッ
ZOOM
HEY!
WAIT A MINUTE, ITOU-SAN!! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
キュッ
SKREEK

TEP
TEP
I'M SURE...
AOSHIMA-KUN LOVES WAGATSUMA-SAN.
WAGATSUMA-SAN IS GOOD AT ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS...
AND SHE'S REALLY COOL.

THERE'S NO WAY A GLOOMY, PLAIN-LOOKING LOSER LIKE ME WHO'S ONLY GOOD FOR DRAWING COMICS COULD EVER MEASURE UP TO HER.
TEP
TEP
TEP
TEP
TEP
BUT...
STILL...

TO LOSE! I DON'T WANT...

WAGA-TSUMA-SAN.
ドキッ
BA-DUMP

H... HELLO.

HUFF
HUFF

TEP
TEP
TEP
TEP
WHOA JEEZ!!
WH-WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
IWAGA-TSUMA-SAN...

OH... UM...
SORRY ABOUT JUST NOW.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PEEP ON YOU AT A WEIRD TIME...
OH... BUT I DON'T MEAN, LIKE, WEIRD WEIRD...
I THINK...
I THINK AOSHIMA-KUN STILL LOVES YOU, WAGATSUMA-SAN.
HUUUH?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF AO-SHIMA-KUN...
WAGA-TSUMA-SAN?
H-HANG ON!!
ITOU-SAN... I DON'T THINK NOW'S THE TIME TO ASK THAT SORT OF THING...
STOP!!!
ALTHOUGH...

WHAT...
DOES SHE THINK OF ME?
HOW ABOUT IT, WAGATSUMA-SAN?!
TO BE CONTINUED!!

NO... UH...
HUH?
MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
AN UNEASY AFTERNOON!!
PLEASE TELL ME.
HOW ABOUT IT?
OF AO-SHIMA-KUN?
WHAT DO YOU THINK...

MY WIFE IS WAGATSUMA-SAN
YOU MADE ME LOOK BACK, BUT NOW I'D LIKE TO LOOK FORWARD.
STORY: YUU KURAISHI
COMIC: KEISHI NISHIKIDA

PART 88
Let There Be Light

*THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ANY ACTUAL PERSONS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR EVENTS IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL.

I THINK NOTHING OF HIM!
BOOM
O-OH.
SO SHE THINKS NOTHING OF ME...
WELL... I GUESS SHE WOULDN'T ...
WE DID BREAK UP AFTER ALL...
IF I CAN TWIST THAT TO MEAN "AT LEAST SHE DOESN'T HATE ME," THEN...
THEN...

"WHY?"
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
BOY, SHE'S REALLY DRIVING HER INTO A CORNER...
WHOA
WHOA
THEY'RE GONE!
HEAVE-HO!
HEAVE-HO!
THEN WHY DID YOU GO OUT WITH HIM?
OHHH-HHH?!
GLUB
GLUB

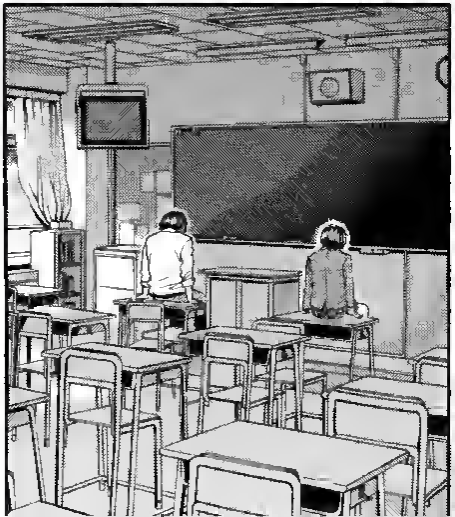
WHY...
DID SHE?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WELL...
I WAS...
BE-CAUSE...
HAPPY.

"HAPPY"?
YOU WERE...
HAP-PY?
NO.
BUT YOU'RE SO POP-ULAR, WAGA-TSUMA-SAN... WHY WOULD YOU--
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN...
NOT THAT.
...HUH?

HUFF
SIGH
I...
UM...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...
NO!! IT'S OKAY!! I'LL TELL YOU!!
I WANT TO TELL YOU!!
ONES PEOPLE FROM OUR GENERATION DON'T SO MUCH AS GLANCE AT...
...REALLY LIKE OLD TV DRAMAS AND STUFF.

I'M A PRETTY BIG LIAR.
YEP.
I DON'T SHOW IT MUCH BECAUSE IF I DO, EVERYONE TREATS ME LIKE A WEIRDO.
BUT AOSHIMA-KUN PUT UP WITH MY WEIRD TASTE...

SO I WAS REALLY HAPPY.
IT FELT LIKE I MADE A "TRUE FRIEND" WHO I COULD SHARE WHAT I REALLY LOVE WITH...



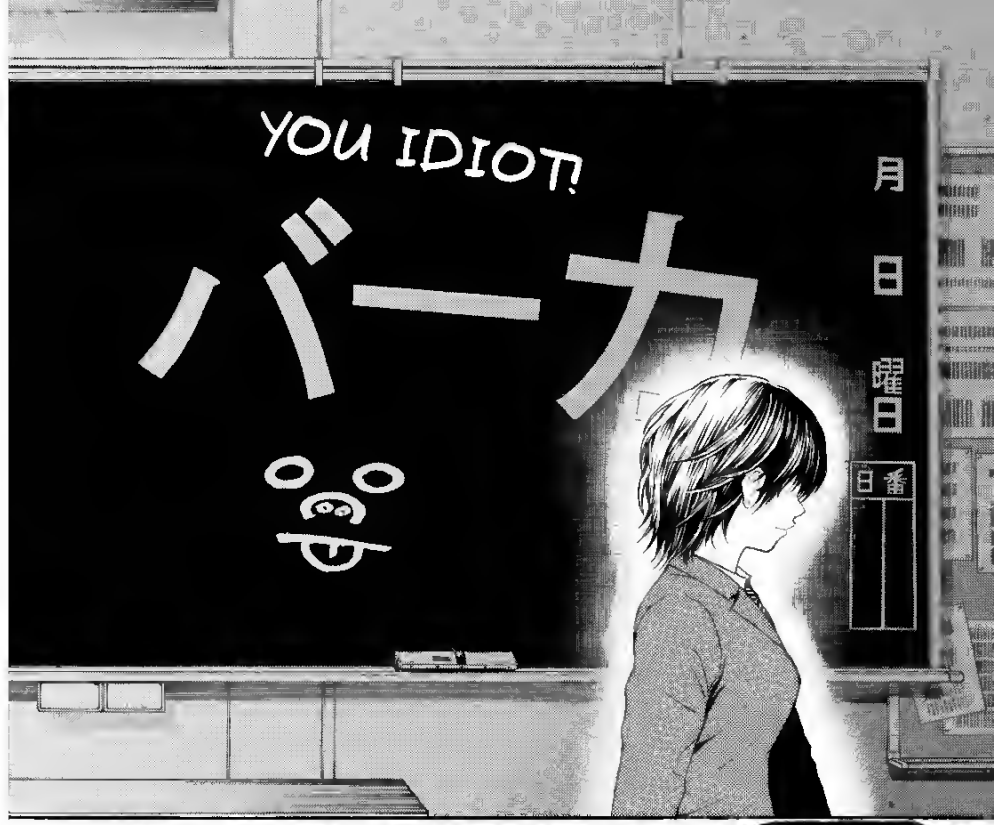
AO-SHIMA-KUN...
WAGA-TSUMA-SAN ALREADY LEFT.
LET'S GO HOME.
AO-SHIMA-KUN?

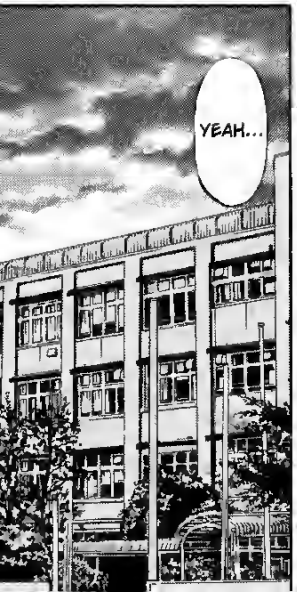
BE ME?
CAN'T IT...

WAGA-TSUMA-SAN FEELS NOW, DON'T YOU?
YOU KNOW HOW...

SORRY.
I SEE.
KLAK
KLAK
KLAK
SHHUP
KLAP
KLAP

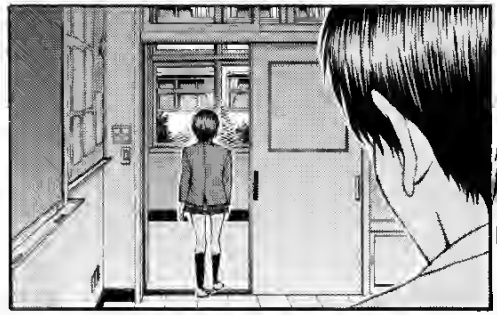
AOSHIMA-KUN,
青島の


YOU IDIOT!
バーカ
月
日
曜日
日番


YEAH...

HUH?
OH.

WELL, I'M GONNA GET GOING, CAPTAIN.



ITOU-SAN...
UM...

From that moment until graduation, Ran Itou called Aoshima "Captain."

JINGA-LING
ピンポロ
JINGA-LING
ピンポロ
Incoming Call
Kodansha
Weekly Shonen Magazine
Editorial Department

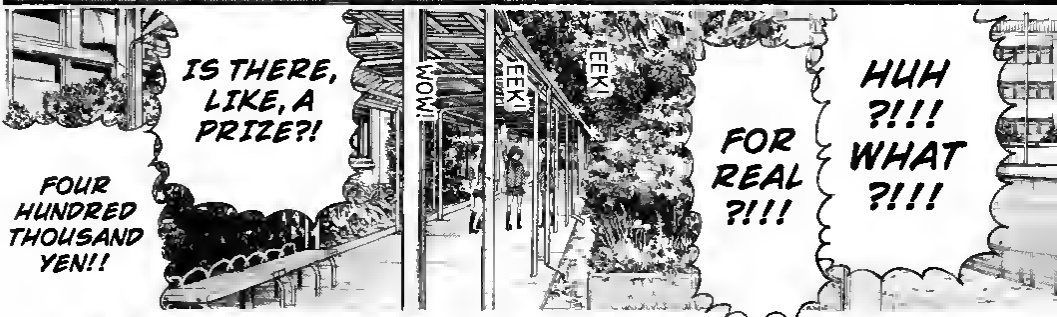
I'M CALLING ABOUT THE WORK YOU SUBMITTED FOR THE ROOKIE AWARD...

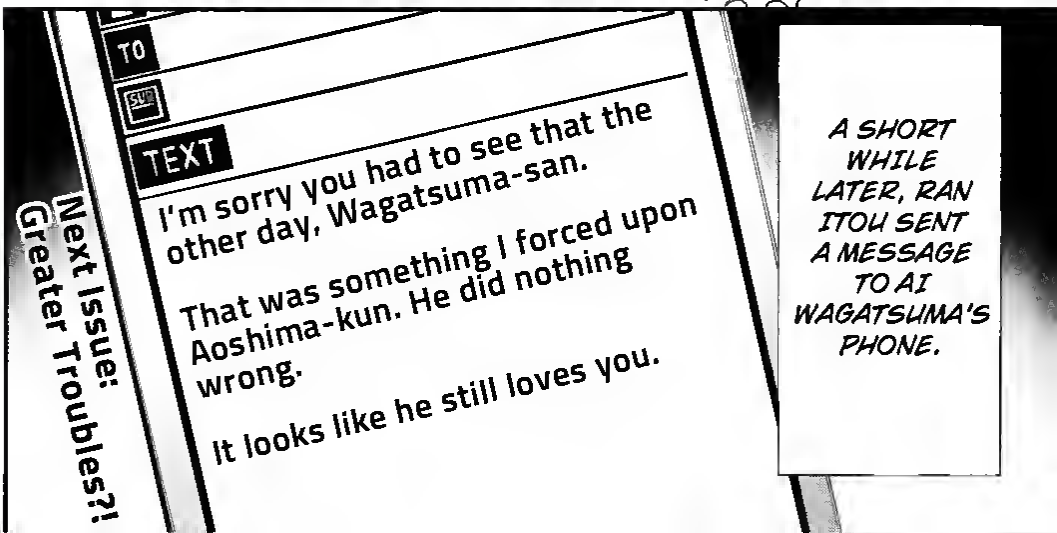
THIS IS RAN ITOU!
YES!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

YES.
OH...
YES...I UNDERSTAND.

I'M GONNA MAKE MY DEBUT !!!!
I DID IT!


IS THERE, LIKE, A PRIZE?!
FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN!!
WOW!
EEK!
EEK!
FOR REAL ?!!!
HUH ?!!! WHAT ?!!!


TO
SUBJECT
TEXT
I'm sorry you had to see that the other day, Wagatsuma-san.
That was something I forced upon Aoshima-kun. He did nothing wrong.
It looks like he still loves you.
A SHORT WHILE LATER, RAN ITOU SENT A MESSAGE TO AI WAGATSUMA'S PHONE.
Next Issue: Greater Troubles?!